SPACE★FORCE
OMNIBUS

TIDALWAVE
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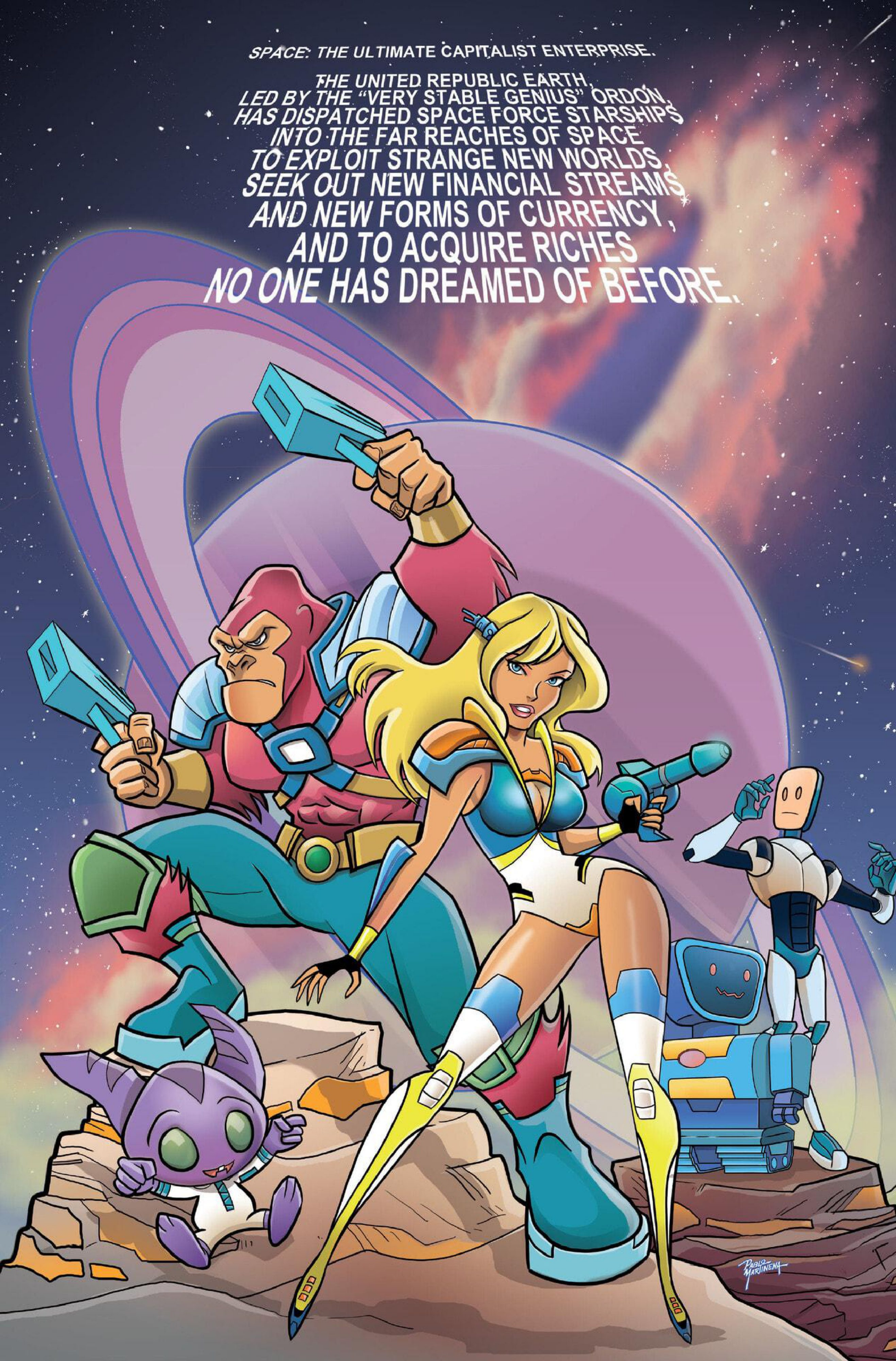
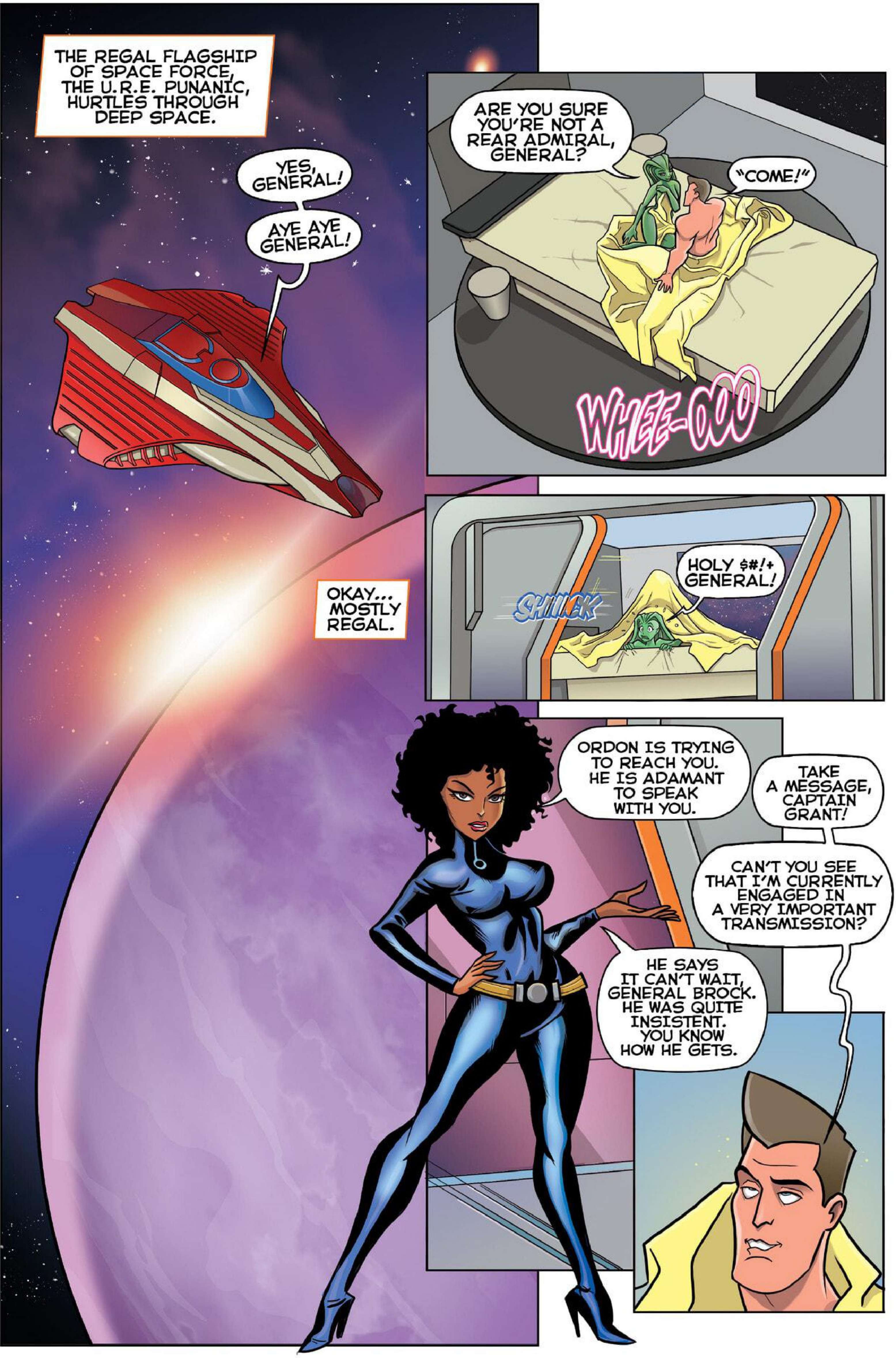
MISSION ONE

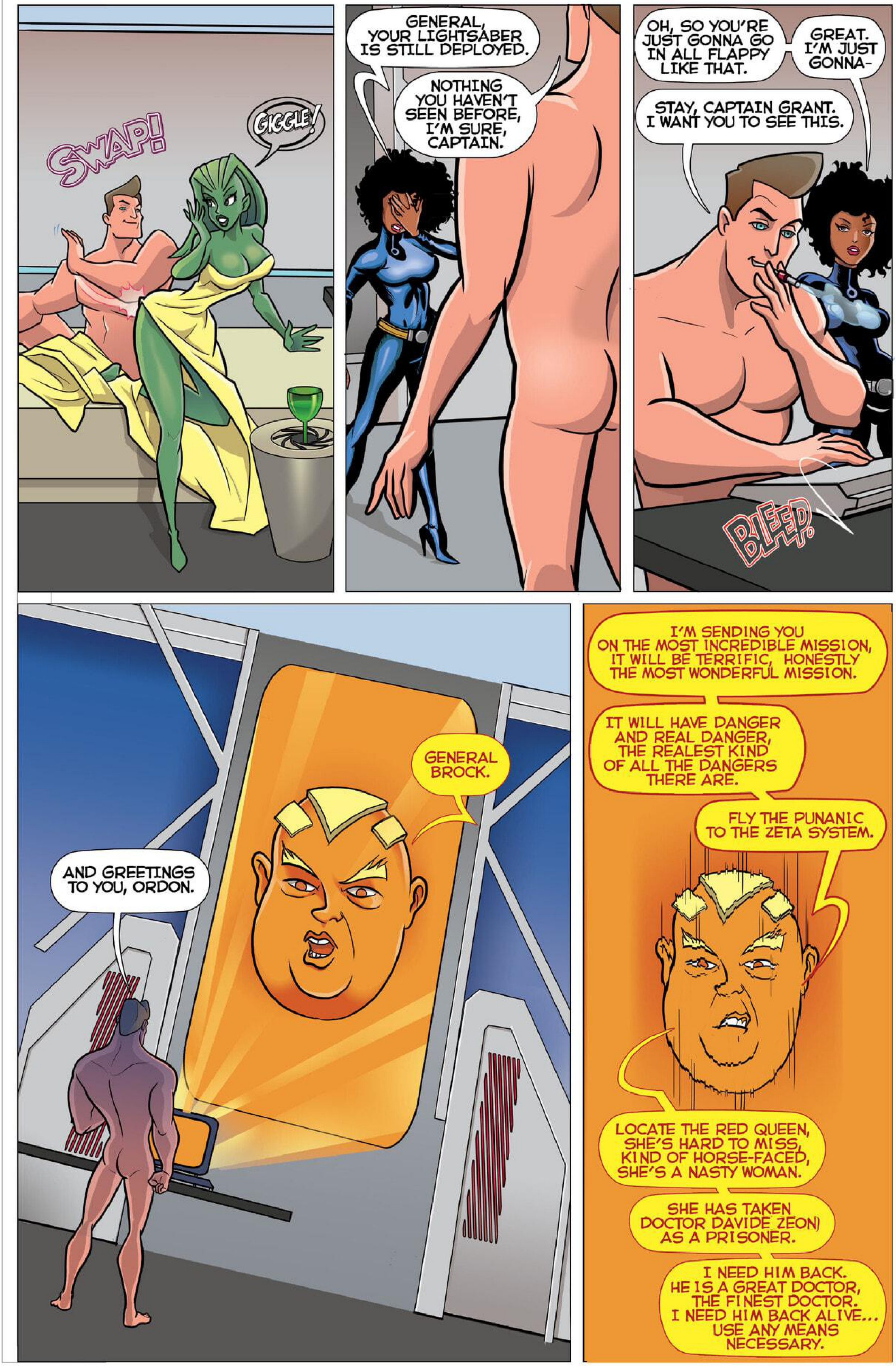
PABLO MARTINENA

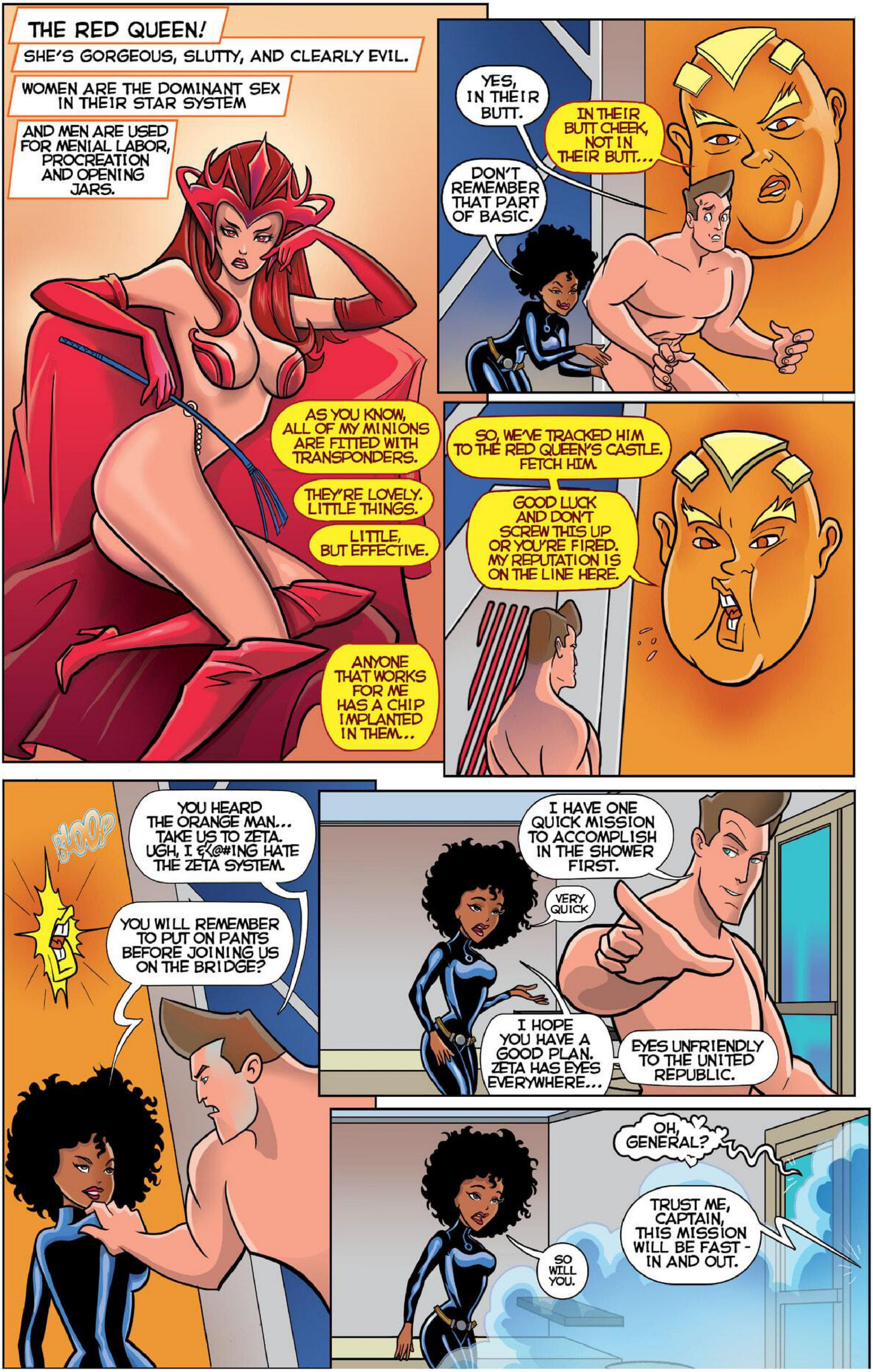


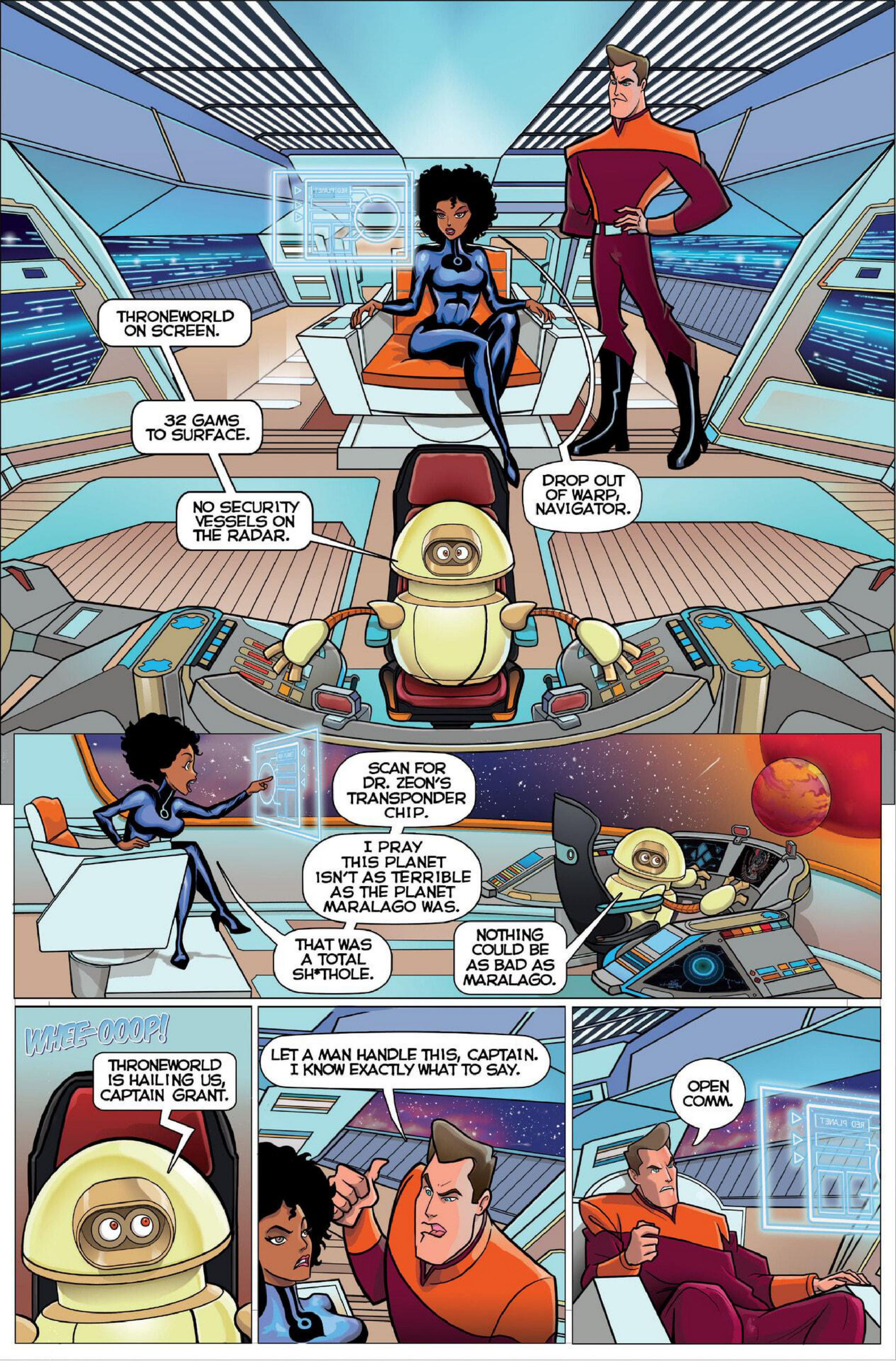
SPACE: THE ULTIMATE CAPITALIST ENTERPRISE.

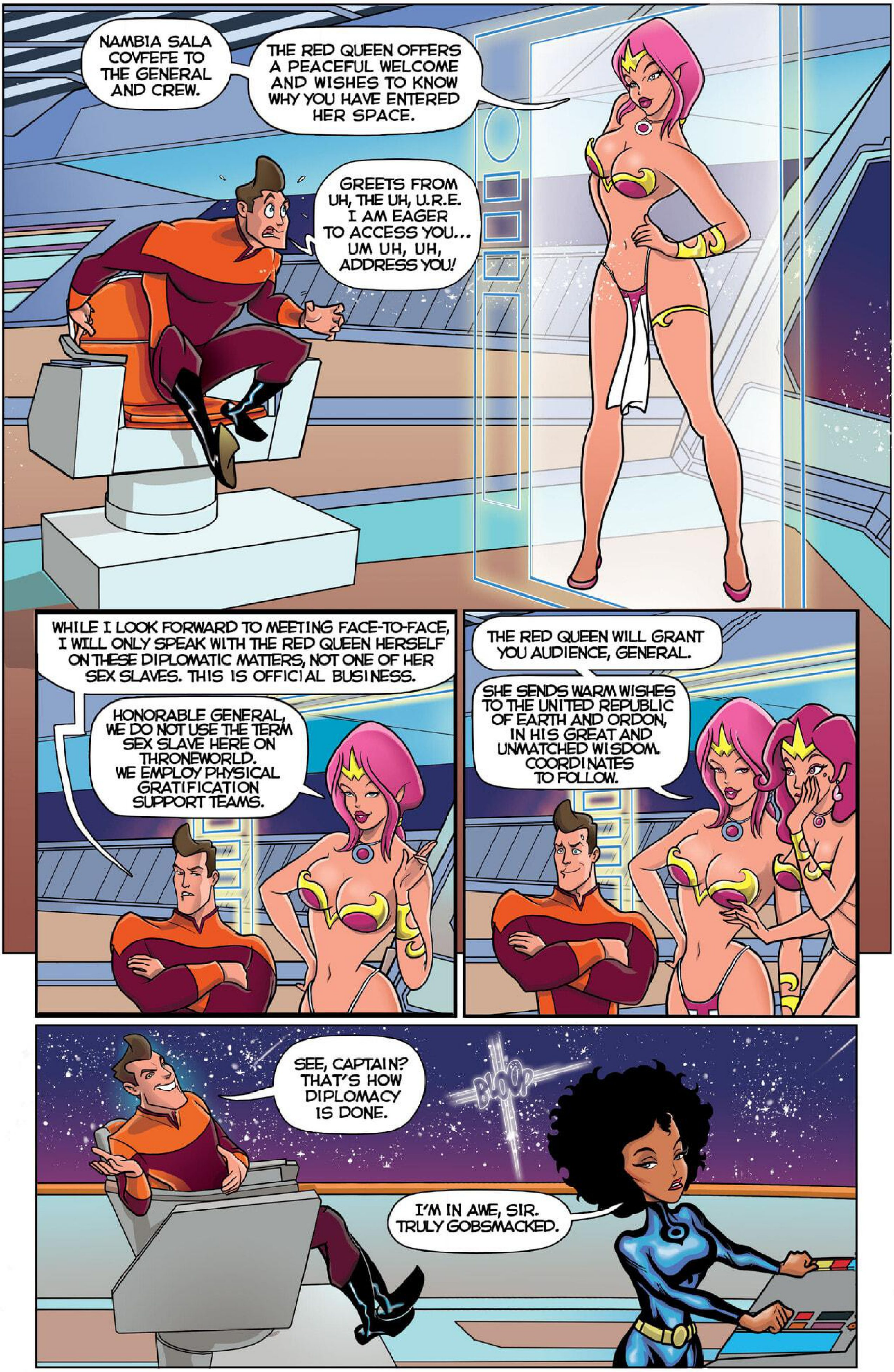
THE UNITED REPUBLIC EARTH,
LED BY THE "VERY STABLE GENIUS" ORDON,
HAS DISPATCHED SPACE FORCE STARSHIP$
INTO THE FAR REACHES OF SPACE
TO EXPLOIT STRANGE NEW WORLDS,
SEEK OUT NEW FINANCIAL STREAM$
AND NEW FORMS OF CURRENCY,
AND TO ACQUIRE RICHES
NO ONE HAS DREAMED OF BEFORE.

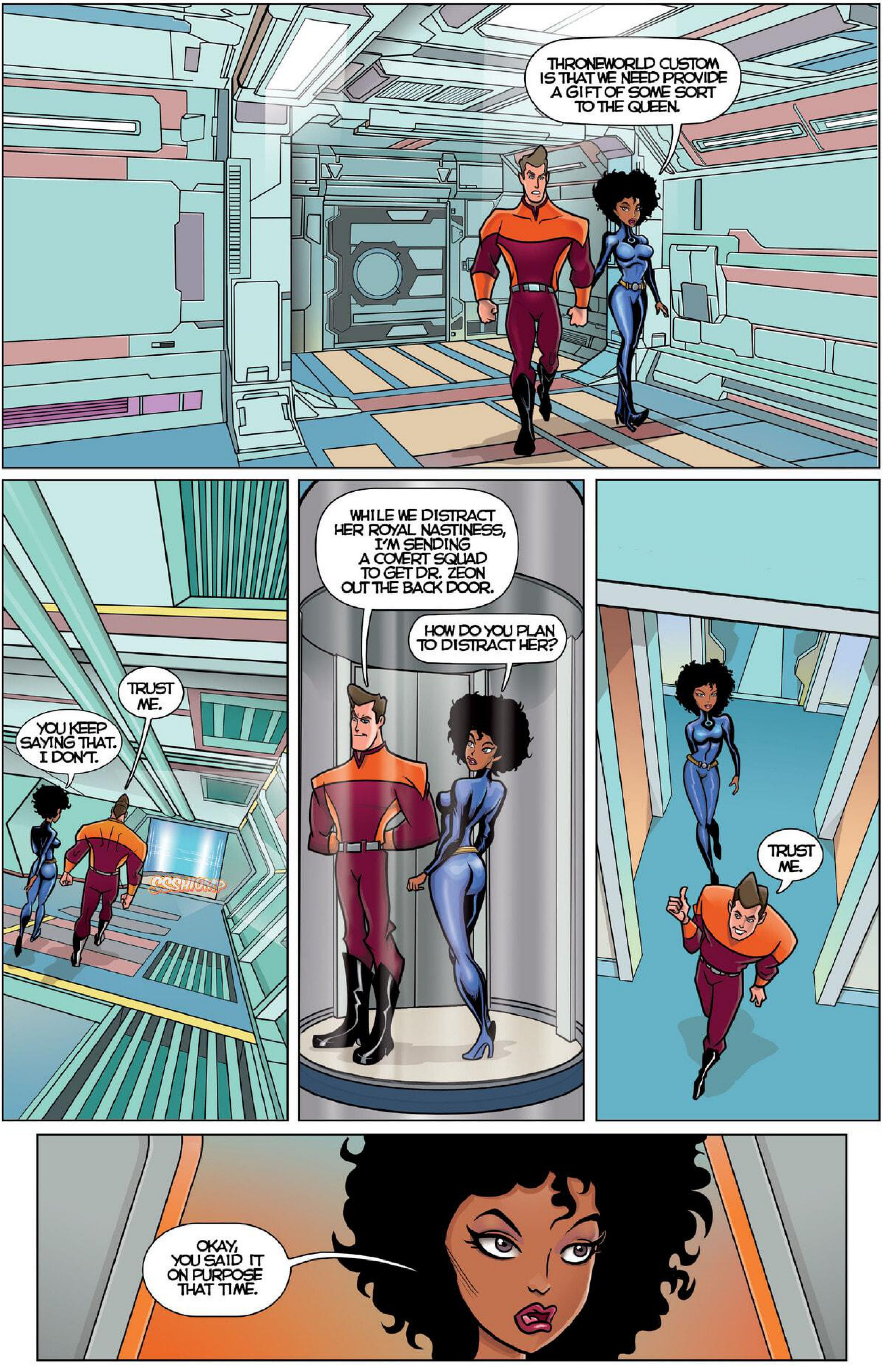

THE REGAL FLAGSHIP OF SPACE FORCE, THE U.R.E. PUNANIC, HURTLES THROUGH DEEP SPACE.
YES, GENERAL!
AYE AYE GENERAL!
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT A REAR ADMIRAL, GENERAL?
"COME!"
WHEE-OOO
OKAY... MOSTLY REGAL.
SHIICK
HOLY $#!+ GENERAL!
ORDON IS TRYING TO REACH YOU. HE IS ADAMANT TO SPEAK WITH YOU.
TAKE A MESSAGE, CAPTAIN GRANT!
CAN'T YOU SEE THAT I'M CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A VERY IMPORTANT TRANSMISSION?
HE SAYS IT CAN'T WAIT, GENERAL BROCK. HE WAS QUITE INSISTENT. YOU KNOW HOW HE GETS.

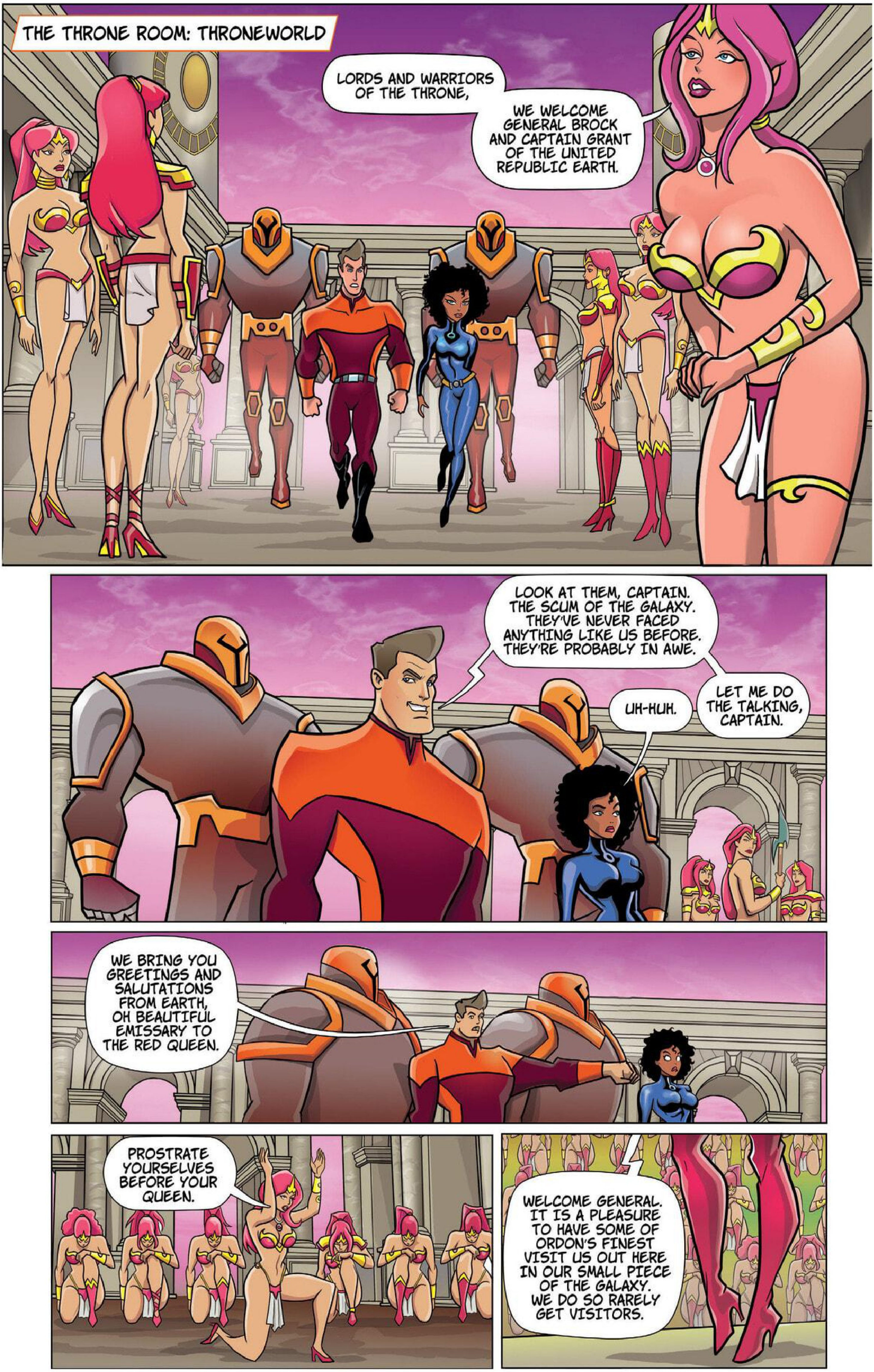

SWAP!
GIGGLE!
GENERAL, YOUR LIGHTSABER IS STILL DEPLOYED.
NOTHING YOU HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE, I'M SURE, CAPTAIN.
OH, SO YOU'RE JUST GONNA GO IN ALL FLAPPY LIKE THAT.
GREAT. I'M JUST GONNA-
STAY, CAPTAIN GRANT. I WANT YOU TO SEE THIS.
BLEEP.
GENERAL BROCK.
AND GREETINGS TO YOU, ORDON.
I'M SENDING YOU ON THE MOST INCREDIBLE MISSION, IT WILL BE TERRIFIC, HONESTLY THE MOST WONDERFUL MISSION.
IT WILL HAVE DANGER AND REAL DANGER, THE REALEST KIND OF ALL THE DANGERS THERE ARE.
FLY THE PUNANIC TO THE ZETA SYSTEM.
LOCATE THE RED QUEEN, SHE'S HARD TO MISS, KIND OF HORSE-FACED, SHE'S A NASTY WOMAN.
SHE HAS TAKEN DOCTOR DAVIDE ZEON) AS A PRISONER.
I NEED HIM BACK. HE IS A GREAT DOCTOR, THE FINEST DOCTOR. I NEED HIM BACK ALIVE... USE ANY MEANS NECESSARY.

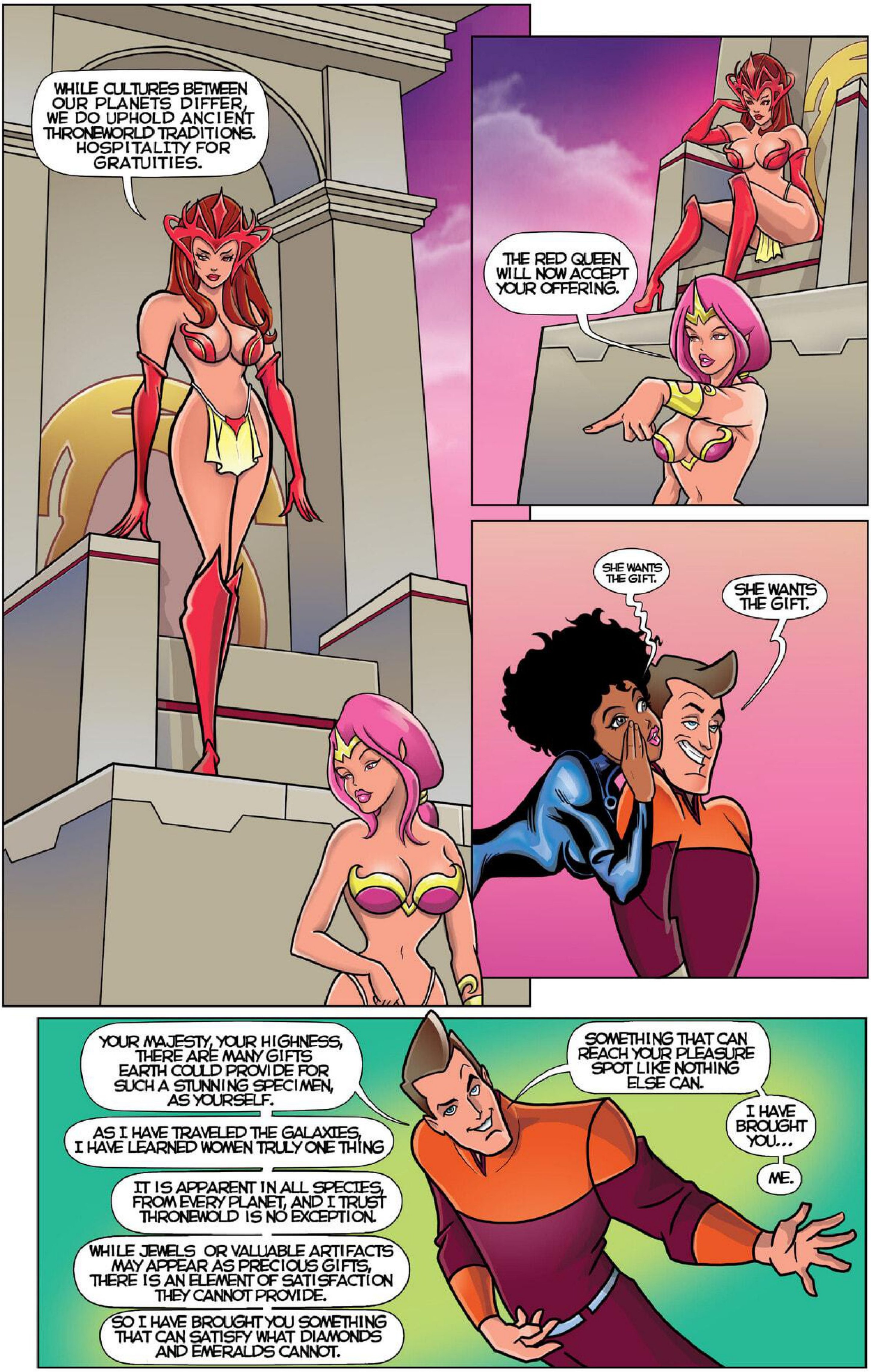

THE RED QUEEN!
SHE'S GORGEOUS, SLUTTY, AND CLEARLY EVIL.
WOMEN ARE THE DOMINANT SEX IN THEIR STAR SYSTEM
AND MEN ARE USED FOR MENIAL LABOR, PROCREATION AND OPENING JARS.
AS YOU KNOW, ALL OF MY MINIONS ARE FITTED WITH TRANSPONDERS.
THEY'RE LOVELY. LITTLE THINGS.
LITTLE, BUT EFFECTIVE.
ANYONE THAT WORKS FOR ME HAS A CHIP IMPLANTED IN THEM...
YES, IN THEIR BUTT.
IN THEIR BUTT CHEEK, NOT IN THEIR BUTT...
DON'T REMEMBER THAT PART OF BASIC.
SO, WE'VE TRACKED HIM TO THE RED QUEEN'S CASTLE. FETCH HIM.
GOOD LUCK AND DON'T SCREW THIS UP OR YOU'RE FIRED. MY REPUTATION IS ON THE LINE HERE.
BLOOP
YOU HEARD THE ORANGE MAN... TAKE US TO ZETA. UGH, I &<@#ING HATE THE ZETA SYSTEM.
YOU WILL REMEMBER TO PUT ON PANTS BEFORE JOINING US ON THE BRIDGE?
I HAVE ONE QUICK MISSION TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE SHOWER FIRST.
VERY QUICK
I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD PLAN. ZETA HAS EYES EVERYWHERE...
EYES UNFRIENDLY TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC.
OH, GENERAL?
TRUST ME, CAPTAIN, THIS MISSION WILL BE FAST - IN AND OUT.
SO WILL YOU.

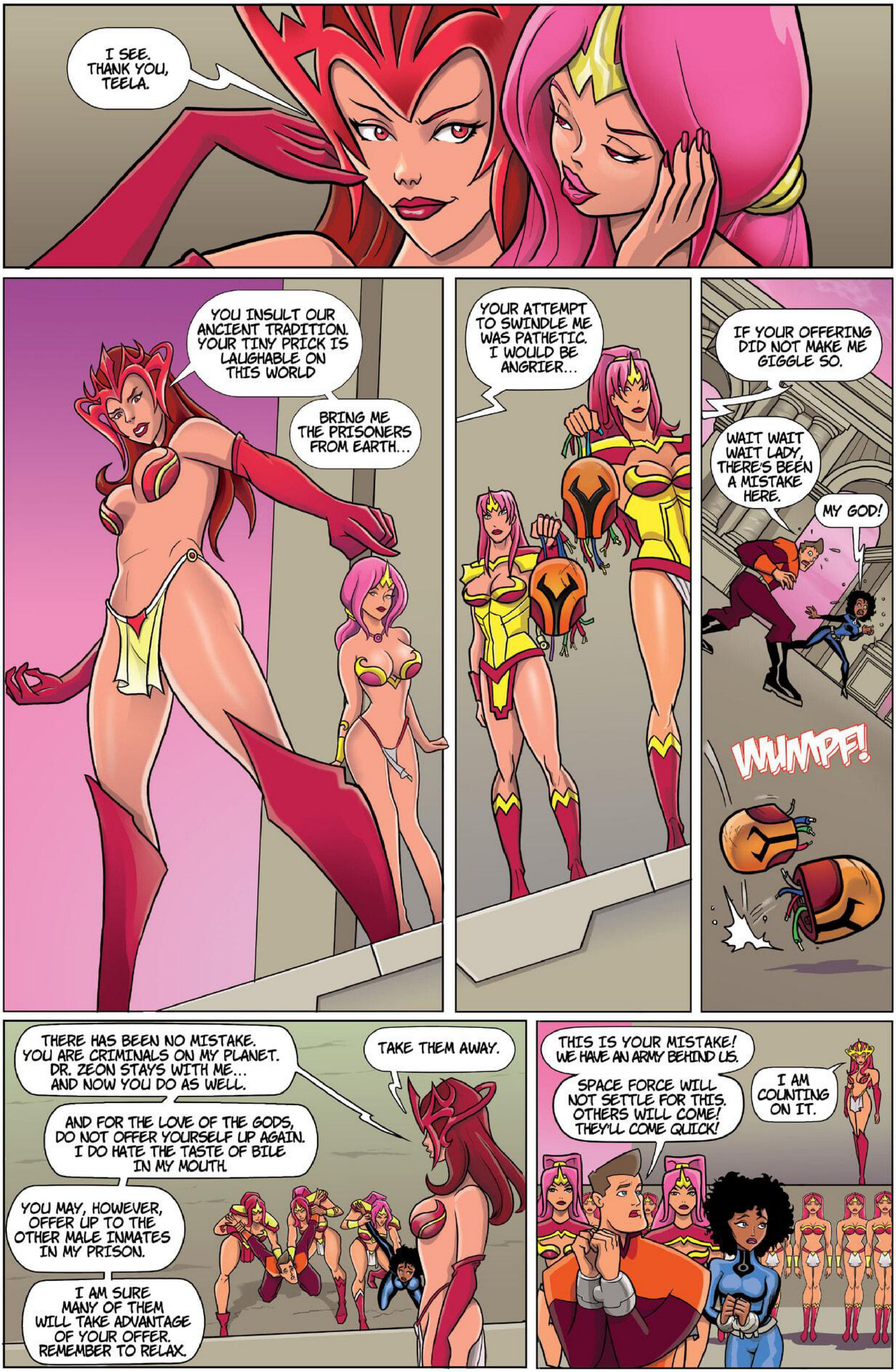

THRONEWORLD ON SCREEN.
32 GAMS TO SURFACE.
NO SECURITY VESSELS ON THE RADAR.
DROP OUT OF WARP, NAVIGATOR.
SCAN FOR DR. ZEON'S TRANSPONDER CHIP.
I PRAY THIS PLANET ISN'T AS TERRIBLE AS THE PLANET MARALAGO WAS.
THAT WAS A TOTAL SH*THOLE.
NOTHING COULD BE AS BAD AS MARALAGO.
WHEE-OOOP!
THRONEWORLD IS HAILING US, CAPTAIN GRANT.
LET A MAN HANDLE THIS, CAPTAIN. I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT TO SAY.
OPEN COMM.

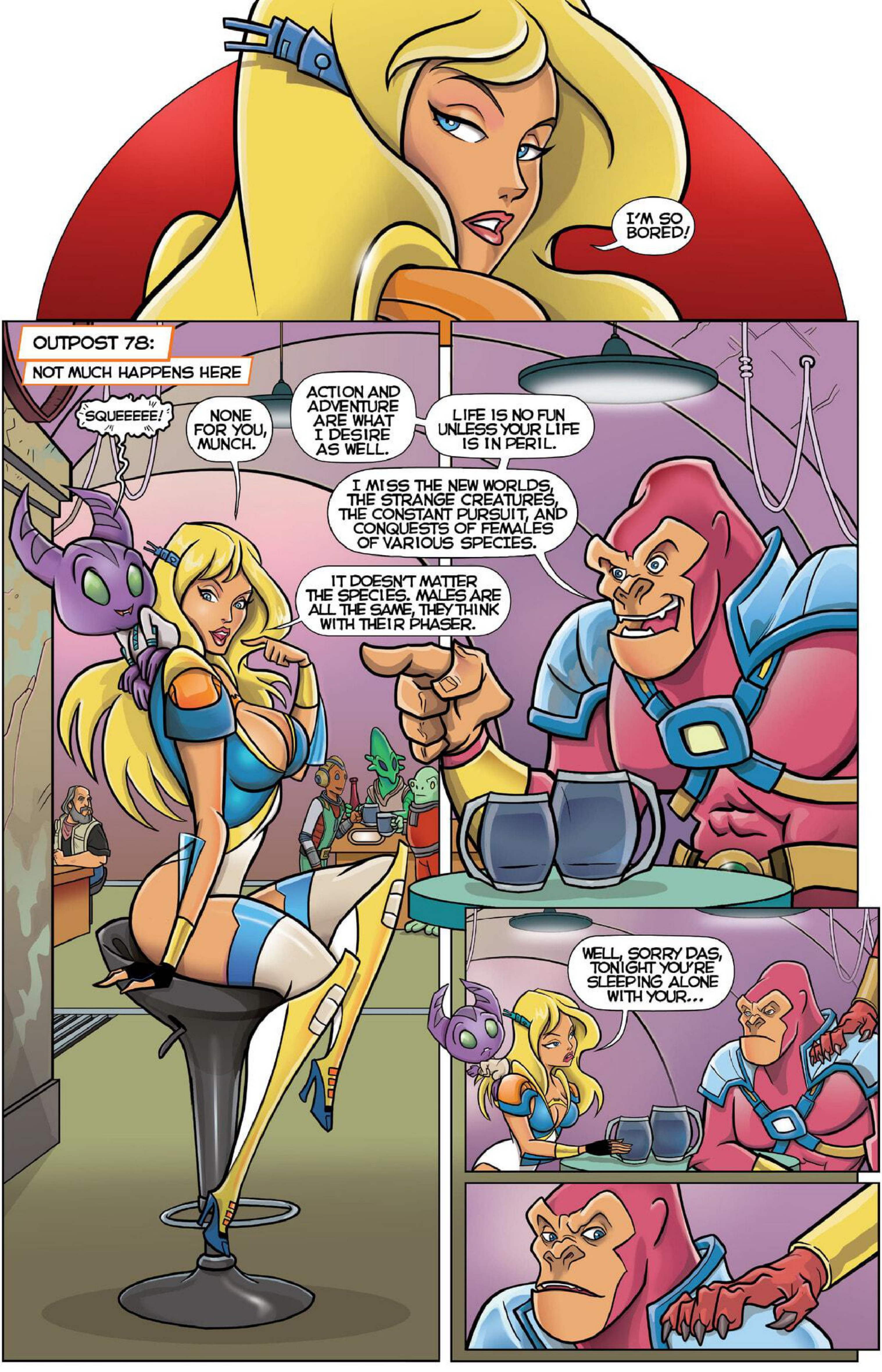

NAMBIA SALA COVFEFE TO THE GENERAL AND CREW.
THE RED QUEEN OFFERS A PEACEFUL WELCOME AND WISHES TO KNOW WHY YOU HAVE ENTERED HER SPACE.
GREETS FROM UH, THE UH, U.R.E. I AM EAGER TO ACCESS YOU... UM UH, UH, ADDRESS YOU!
WHILE I LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING FACE-TO-FACE, I WILL ONLY SPEAK WITH THE RED QUEEN HERSELF ON THESE DIPLOMATIC MATTERS, NOT ONE OF HER SEX SLAVES. THIS IS OFFICIAL BUSINESS.
HONORABLE GENERAL, WE DO NOT USE THE TERM SEX SLAVE HERE ON THRONEWORLD. WE EMPLOY PHYSICAL GRATIFICATION SUPPORT TEAMS.
THE RED QUEEN WILL GRANT YOU AUDIENCE, GENERAL.
SHE SENDS WARM WISHES TO THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF EARTH AND ORDON, IN HIS GREAT AND UNMATCHED WISDOM. COORDINATES TO FOLLOW.
SEE, CAPTAIN? THAT'S HOW DIPLOMACY IS DONE.
BLOOP
I'M IN AWE, SIR. TRULY GOBSMACKED.

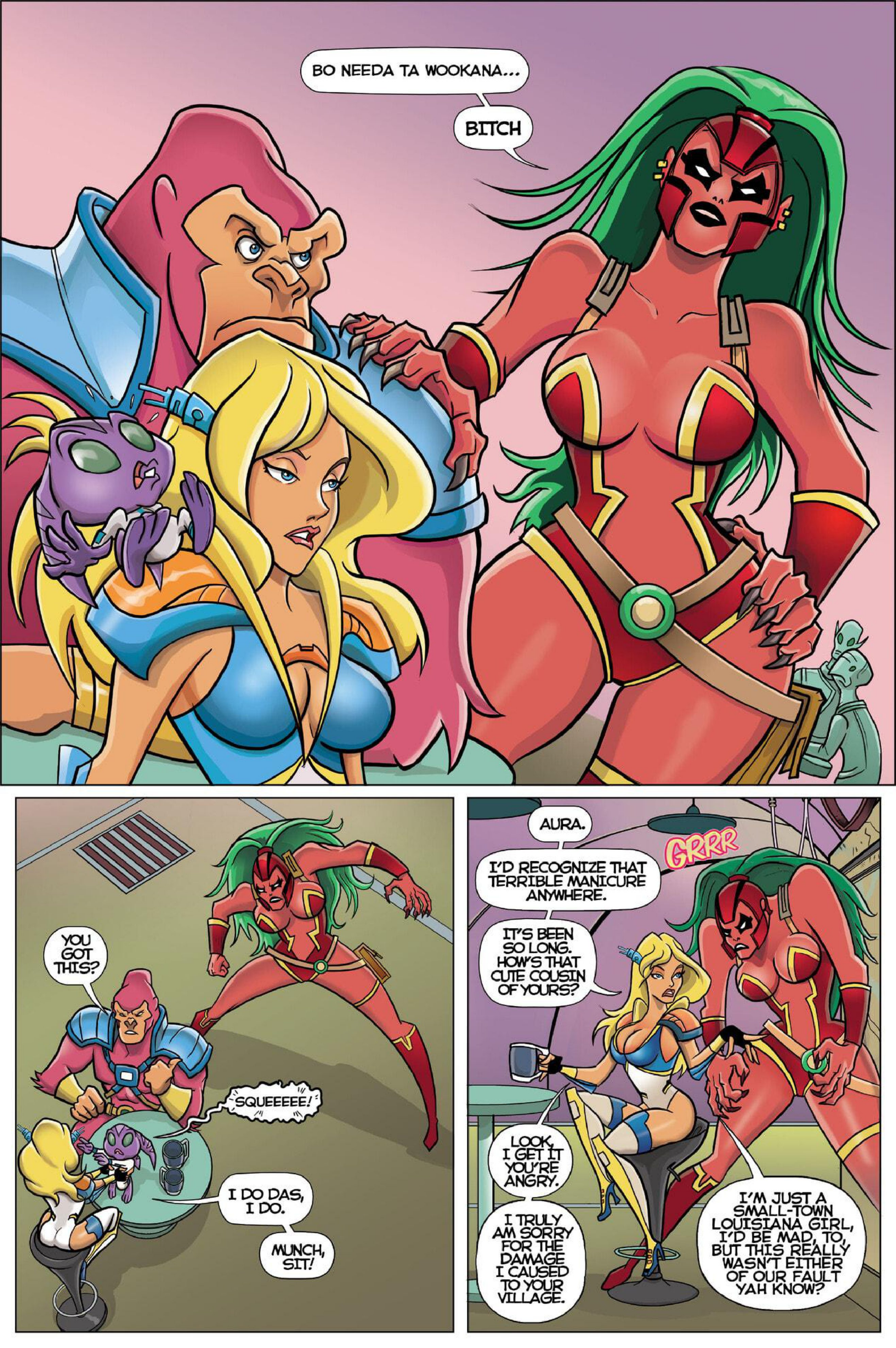

THRONEWORLD CUSTOM IS THAT WE NEED PROVIDE A GIFT OF SOME SORT TO THE QUEEN.
TRUST ME.
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT. I DON'T.
SSSHOMP
WHILE WE DISTRACT HER ROYAL NASTINESS, I'M SENDING A COVERT SQUAD TO GET DR. ZEON OUT THE BACK DOOR.
HOW DO YOU PLAN TO DISTRACT HER?
TRUST ME.
OKAY, YOU SAID IT ON PURPOSE THAT TIME.

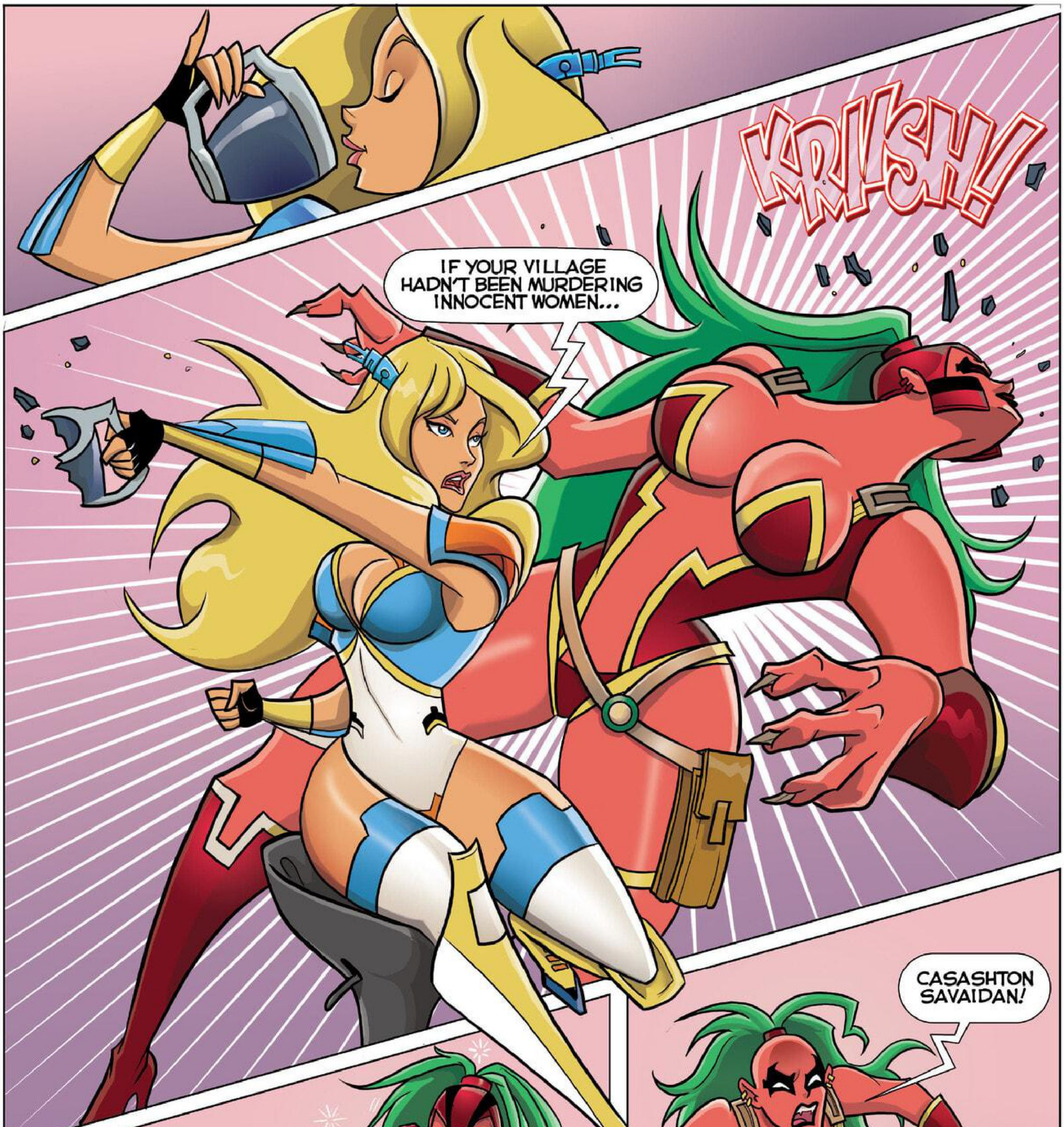
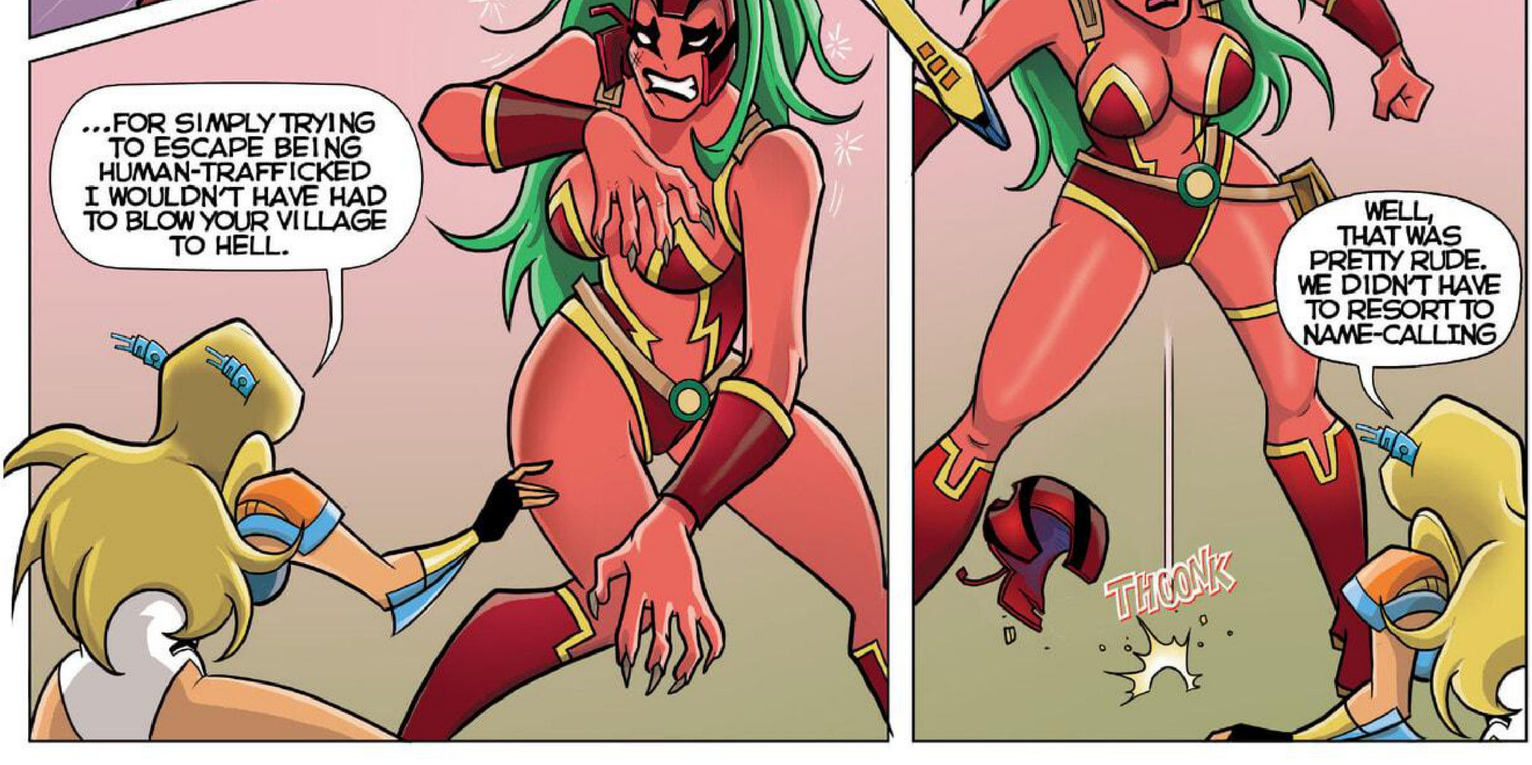

THE THRONE ROOM: THRONEWORLD
LORDS AND WARRIORS OF THE THRONE,
WE WELCOME GENERAL BROCK AND CAPTAIN GRANT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC EARTH.
LOOK AT THEM, CAPTAIN. THE SCUM OF THE GALAXY. THEY'VE NEVER FACED ANYTHING LIKE US BEFORE. THEY'RE PROBABLY IN AWE.
UH-HUH.
LET ME DO THE TALKING, CAPTAIN.
WE BRING YOU GREETINGS AND SALUTATIONS FROM EARTH, OH BEAUTIFUL EMISSARY TO THE RED QUEEN.
PROSTRATE YOURSELVES BEFORE YOUR QUEEN.
WELCOME GENERAL. IT IS A PLEASURE TO HAVE SOME OF ORDON'S FINEST VISIT US OUT HERE IN OUR SMALL PIECE OF THE GALAXY. WE DO SO RARELY GET VISITORS.

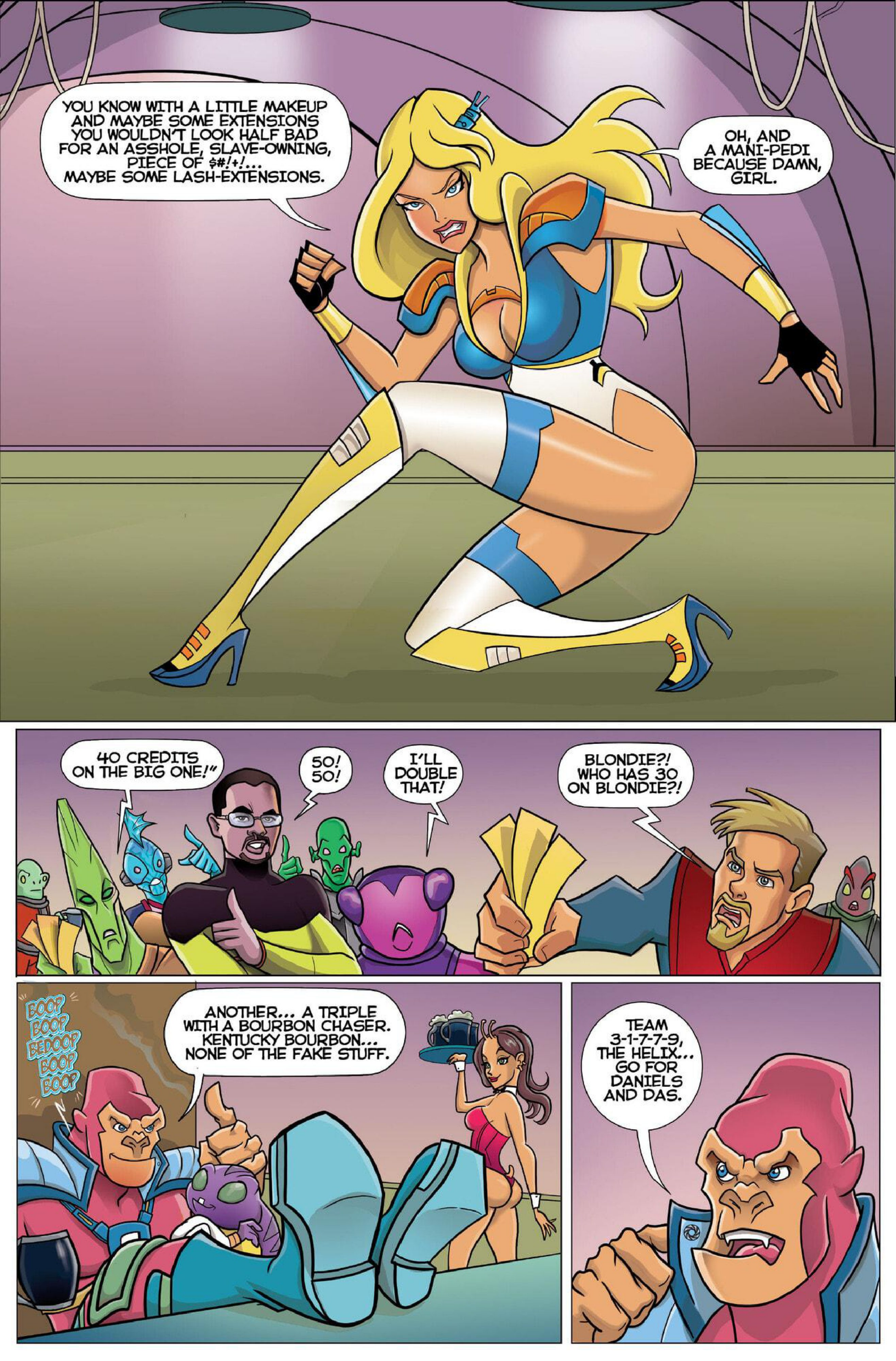

WHILE CULTURES BETWEEN OUR PLANETS DIFFER, WE DO UPHOLD ANCIENT THRONEWORLD TRADITIONS. HOSPITALITY FOR GRATUITIES.
THE RED QUEEN WILL NOW ACCEPT YOUR OFFERING.
SHE WANTS THE GIFT.
SHE WANTS THE GIFT.
YOUR MAJESTY, YOUR HIGHNESS, THERE ARE MANY GIFTS EARTH COULD PROVIDE FOR SUCH A STUNNING SPECIMEN, AS YOURSELF.
AS I HAVE TRAVELED THE GALAXIES, I HAVE LEARNED WOMEN TRULY ONE THING
IT IS APPARENT IN ALL SPECIES, FROM EVERY PLANET, AND I TRUST THRONEWOLD IS NO EXCEPTION.
WHILE JEWELS OR VALUABLE ARTIFACTS MAY APPEAR AS PRECIOUS GIFTS, THERE IS AN ELEMENT OF SATISFACTION THEY CANNOT PROVIDE.
SO I HAVE BROUGHT YOU SOMETHING THAT CAN SATISFY WHAT DIAMONDS AND EMERALDS CANNOT.
SOMETHING THAT CAN REACH YOUR PLEASURE SPOT LIKE NOTHING ELSE CAN.
I HAVE BROUGHT YOU...
ME.

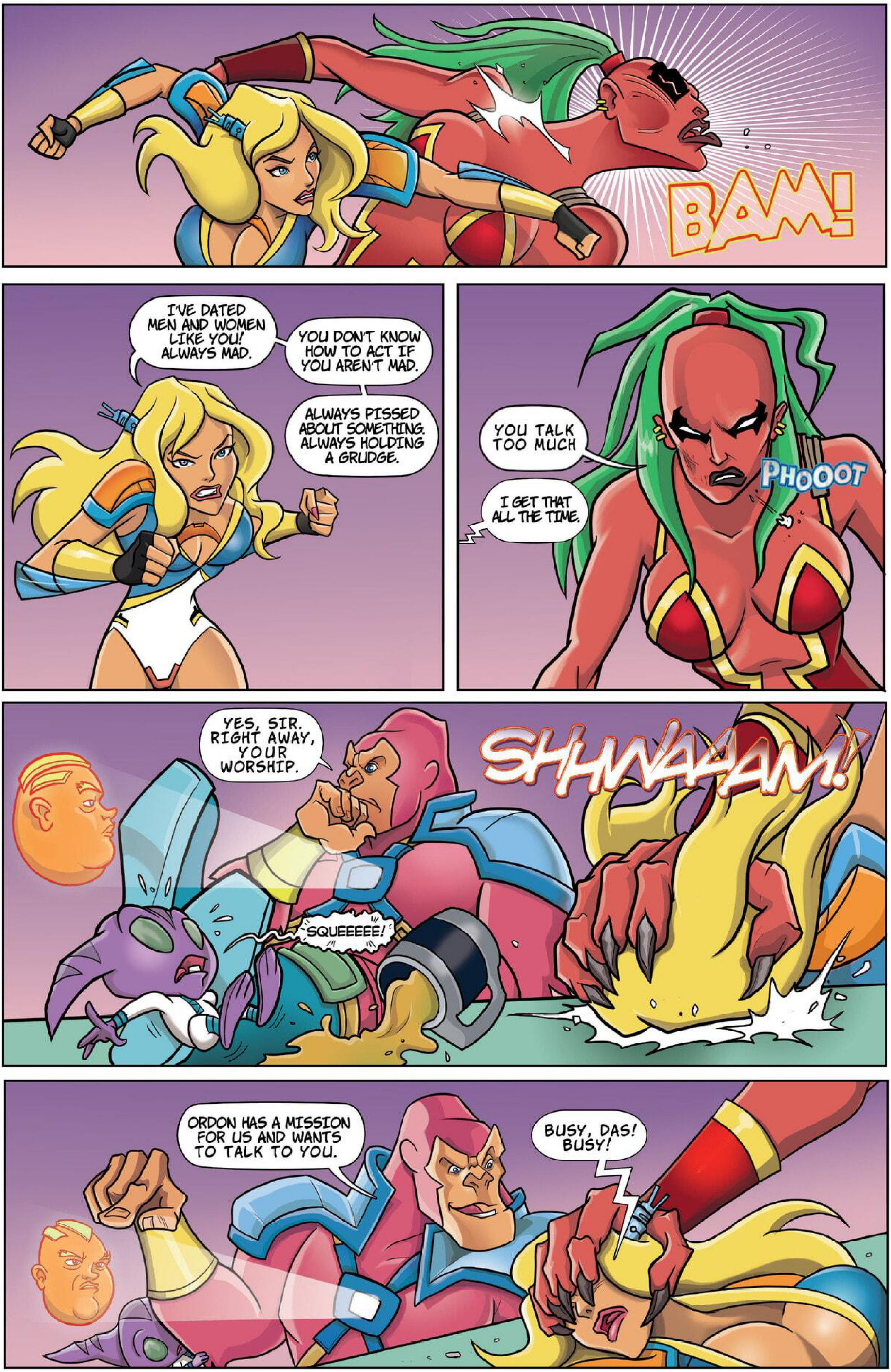

I SEE. THANK YOU, TEELA.
YOU INSULT OUR ANCIENT TRADITION. YOUR TINY PRICK IS LAUGHABLE ON THIS WORLD
BRING ME THE PRISONERS FROM EARTH…
YOUR ATTEMPT TO SWINDLE ME WAS PATHETIC. I WOULD BE ANGRIER…
IF YOUR OFFERING DID NOT MAKE ME GIGGLE SO.
WAIT WAIT WAIT LADY, THERE'S BEEN A MISTAKE HERE.
MY GOD!
WUMPF!
THERE HAS BEEN NO MISTAKE. YOU ARE CRIMINALS ON MY PLANET. DR. ZEON STAYS WITH ME… AND NOW YOU DO AS WELL.
AND FOR THE LOVE OF THE GODS, DO NOT OFFER YOURSELF UP AGAIN. I DO HATE THE TASTE OF BILE IN MY MOUTH.
YOU MAY, HOWEVER, OFFER UP TO THE OTHER MALE INMATES IN MY PRISON.
I AM SURE MANY OF THEM WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOUR OFFER. REMEMBER TO RELAX.
TAKE THEM AWAY.
THIS IS YOUR MISTAKE! WE HAVE AN ARMY BEHIND US.
SPACE FORCE WILL NOT SETTLE FOR THIS. OTHERS WILL COME! THEY'LL COME QUICK!
I AM COUNTING ON IT.

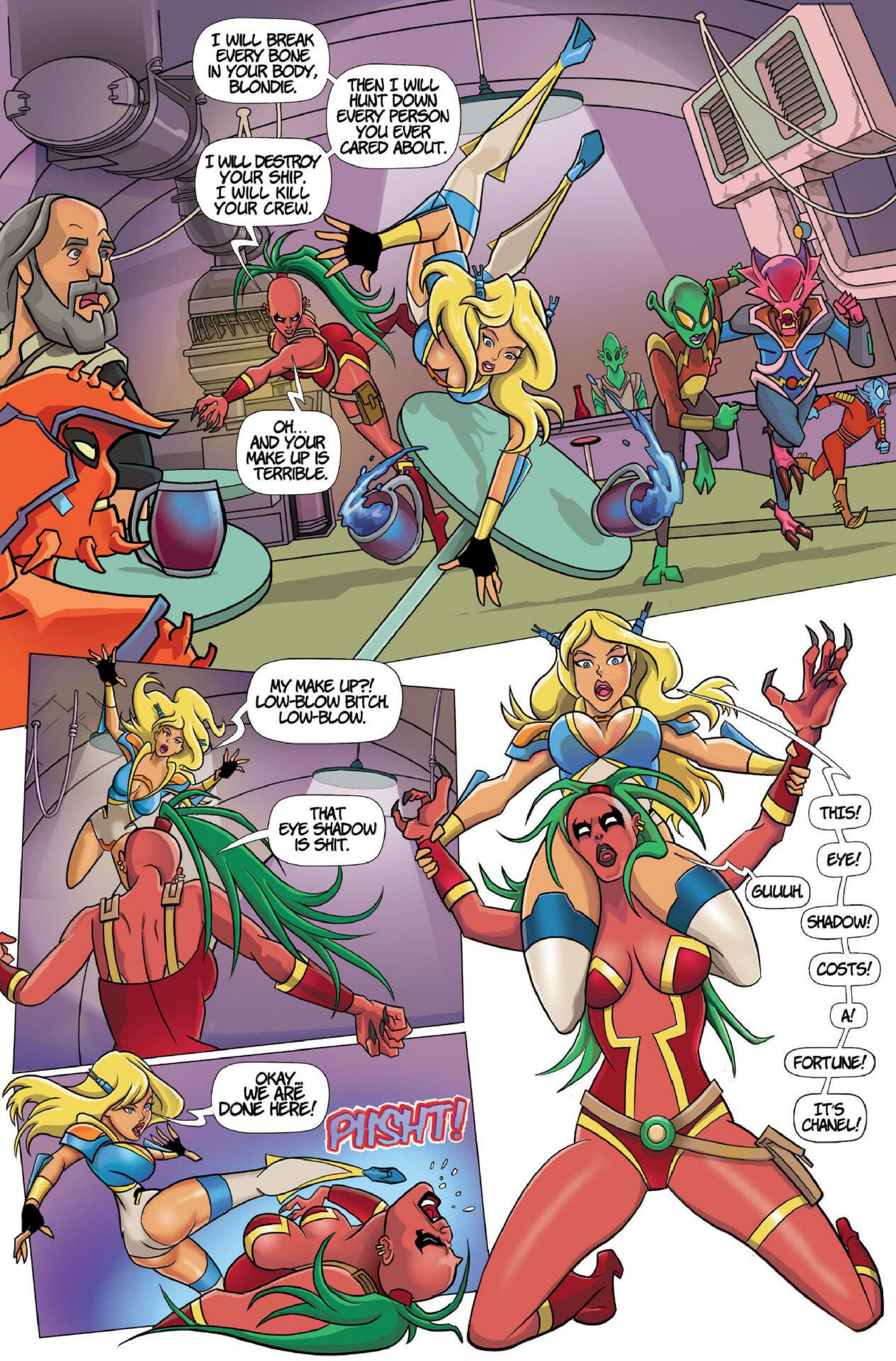

I'M SO BORED!
OUTPOST 78:
NOT MUCH HAPPENS HERE
SQUEEEEE!
NONE FOR YOU, MUNCH.
ACTION AND ADVENTURE ARE WHAT I DESIRE AS WELL.
LIFE IS NO FUN UNLESS YOUR LIFE IS IN PERIL.
I MISS THE NEW WORLDS, THE STRANGE CREATURES, THE CONSTANT PURSUIT, AND CONQUESTS OF FEMALES OF VARIOUS SPECIES.
IT DOESN'T MATTER THE SPECIES. MALES ARE ALL THE SAME, THEY THINK WITH THEIR PHASER.
WELL, SORRY DAS, TONIGHT YOU'RE SLEEPING ALONE WITH YOUR...

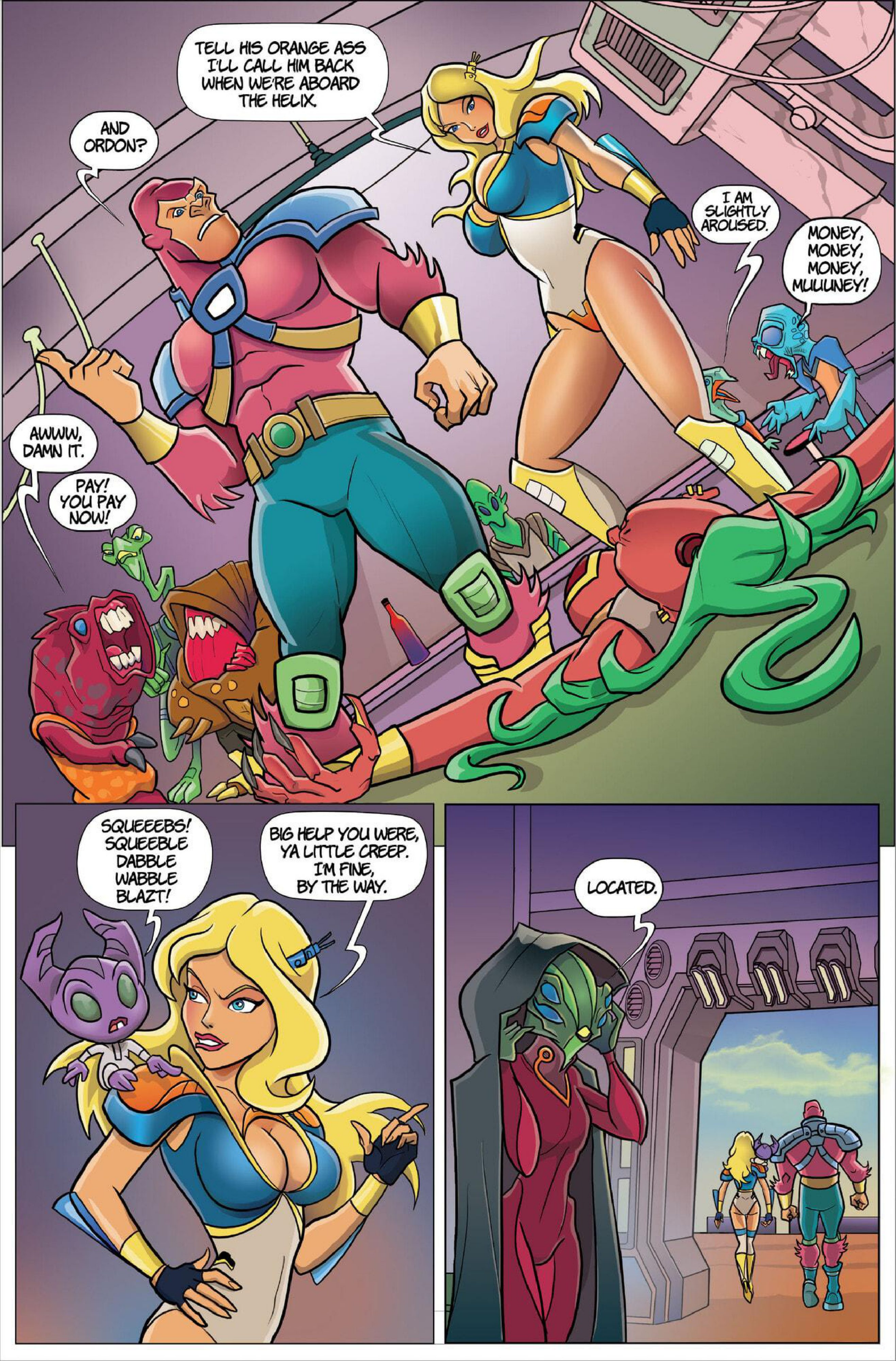

BO NEEDA TA WOOKANA...
BITCH
YOU GOT THIS?
SQUEEEEE!
I DO DAS, I DO.
MUNCH, SIT!
AURA.
GRRR
I'D RECOGNIZE THAT TERRIBLE MANICURE ANYWHERE.
IT'S BEEN SO LONG. HOW'S THAT CUTE COUSIN OF YOURS?
LOOK, I GET IT YOU'RE ANGRY.
I TRULY AM SORRY FOR THE DAMAGE I CAUSED TO YOUR VILLAGE.
I'M JUST A SMALL-TOWN LOUISIANA GIRL, I'D BE MAD, TO, BUT THIS REALLY WASN'T EITHER OF OUR FAULT YAH KNOW?

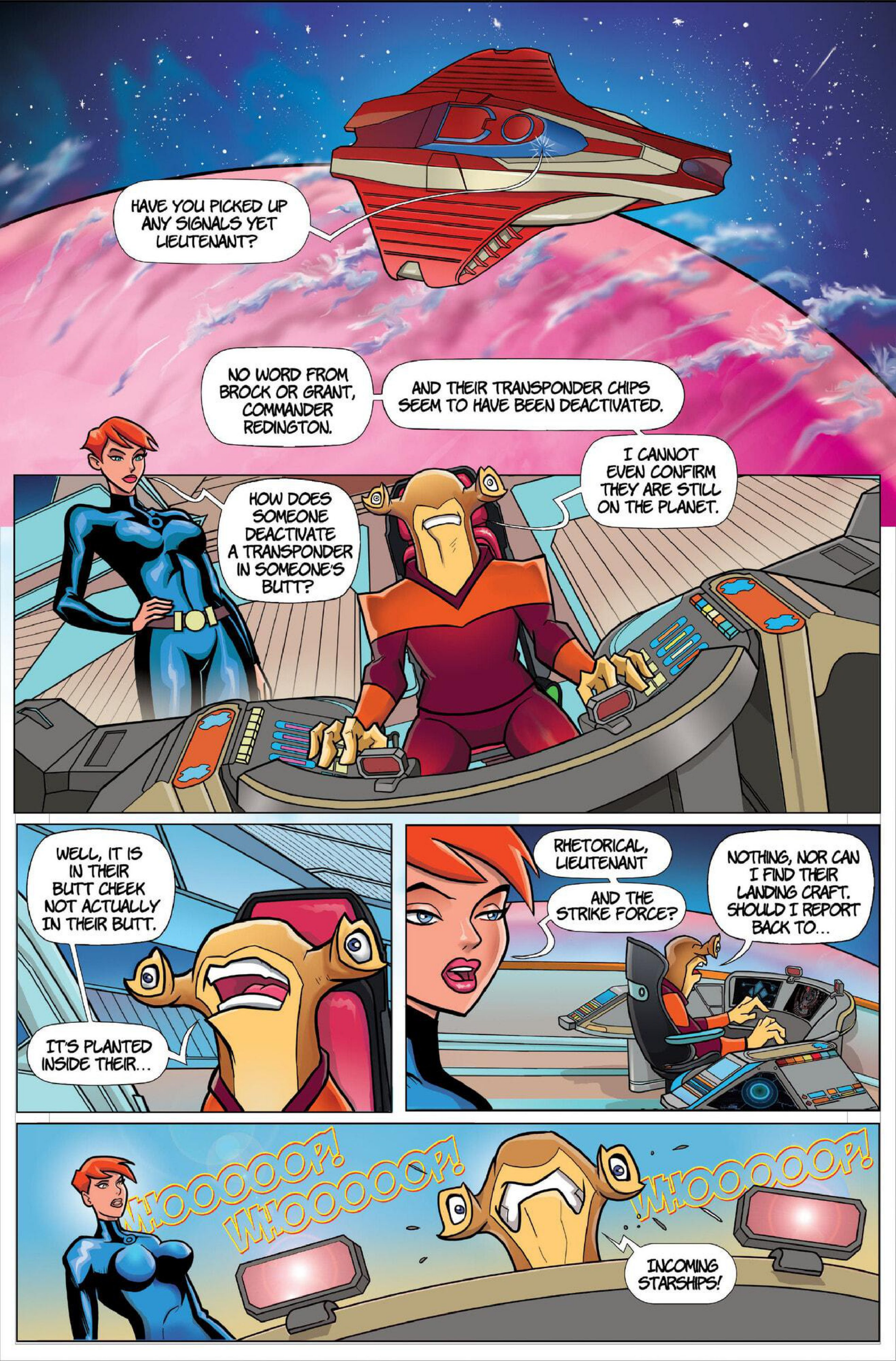

KRUSH!
IF YOUR VILLAGE HADN'T BEEN MURDERING INNOCENT WOMEN...
...FOR SIMPLY TRYING TO ESCAPE BEING HUMAN-TRAFFICKED I WOULDN'T HAVE HAD TO BLOW YOUR VILLAGE TO HELL.
CASASHTON SAVAIDAN!
WELL, THAT WAS PRETTY RUDE. WE DIDN'T HAVE TO RESORT TO NAME-CALLING
THOONK


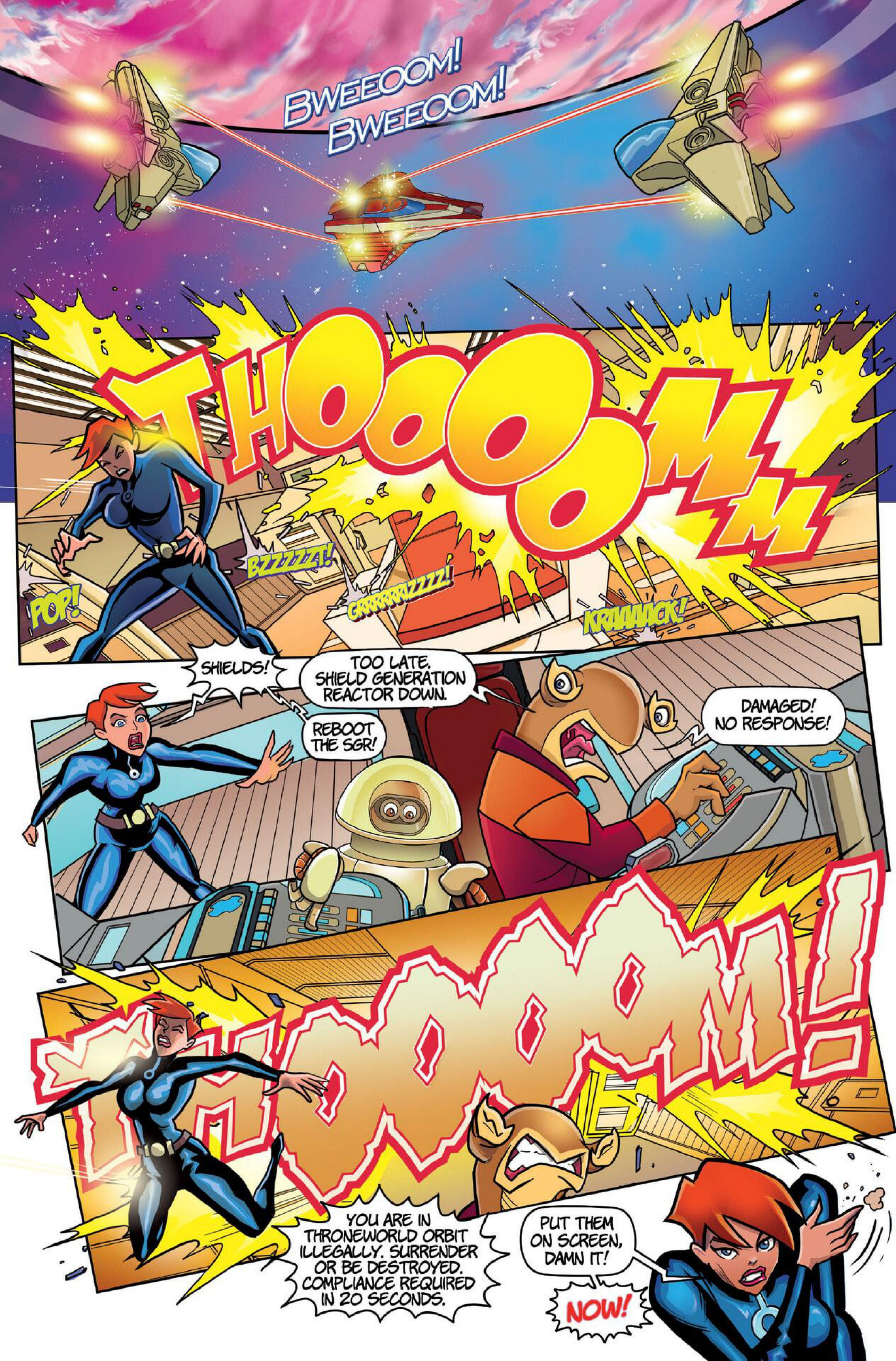

YOU KNOW WITH A LITTLE MAKEUP AND MAYBE SOME EXTENSIONS YOU WOULDN'T LOOK HALF BAD FOR AN ASSHOLE, SLAVE-OWNING, PIECE OF $#!+!... MAYBE SOME LASH-EXTENSIONS.
OH, AND A MANI-PEDI BECAUSE DAMN, GIRL.
40 CREDITS ON THE BIG ONE!"
50! 50!
I'LL DOUBLE THAT!
BLONDIE?! WHO HAS 30 ON BLONDIE?!
BOOP BOOP BEDOOP BOOP BOOP
ANOTHER... A TRIPLE WITH A BOURBON CHASER. KENTUCKY BOURBON... NONE OF THE FAKE STUFF.
TEAM 3-1-7-7-9, THE HELIX... GO FOR DANIELS AND DAS.

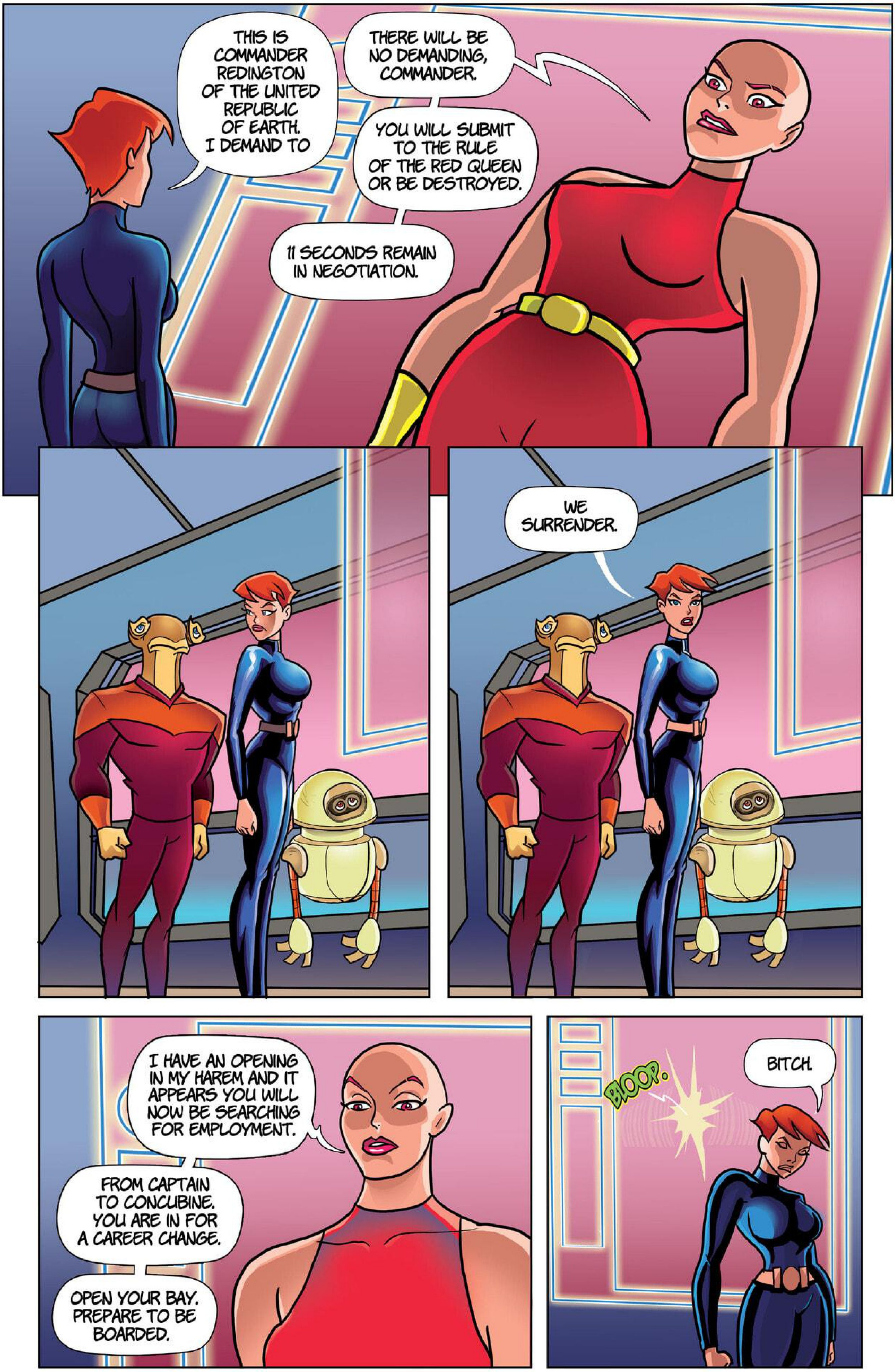

BAM!
I'VE DATED MEN AND WOMEN LIKE YOU! ALWAYS MAD.
YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO ACT IF YOU AREN'T MAD.
ALWAYS PISSED ABOUT SOMETHING. ALWAYS HOLDING A GRUDGE.
YOU TALK TOO MUCH
PHOOOT
I GET THAT ALL THE TIME.
YES, SIR. RIGHT AWAY, YOUR WORSHIP.
SHWAAAM!
SQUEEEEEE!
ORDON HAS A MISSION FOR US AND WANTS TO TALK TO YOU.
BUSY, DAS! BUSY!

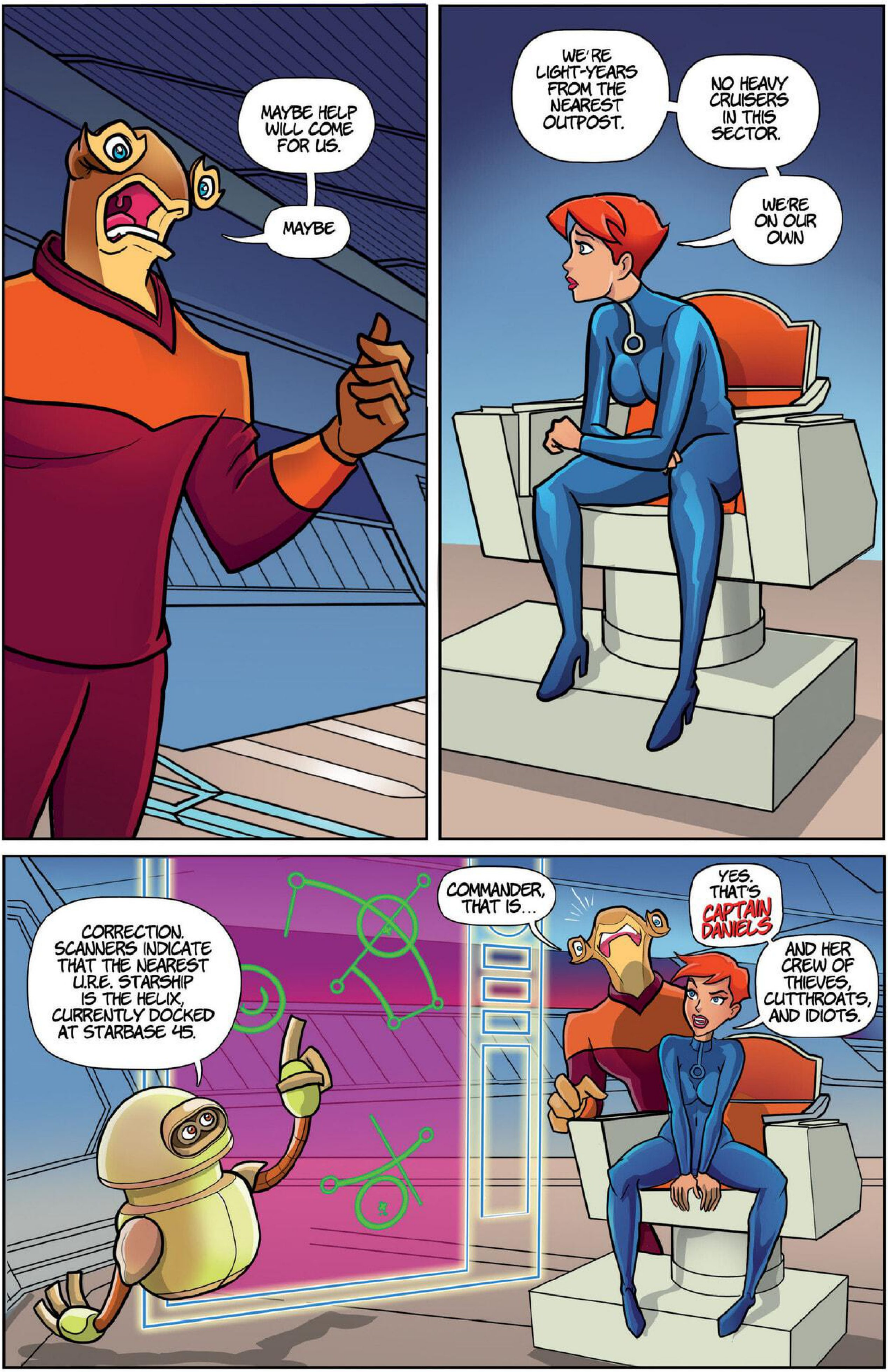

I WILL BREAK EVERY BONE IN YOUR BODY, BLONDIE.
THEN I WILL HUNT DOWN EVERY PERSON YOU EVER CARED ABOUT.
I WILL DESTROY YOUR SHIP. I WILL KILL YOUR CREW.
OH... AND YOUR MAKE UP IS TERRIBLE.
MY MAKE UP?! LOW-BLOW BITCH. LOW-BLOW.
THAT EYE SHADOW IS SHIT.
THIS!
EYE!
GUUUH.
SHADOW!
COSTS!
A!
FORTUNE!
IT'S CHANEL!
OKAY... WE ARE DONE HERE!
PHSHT!

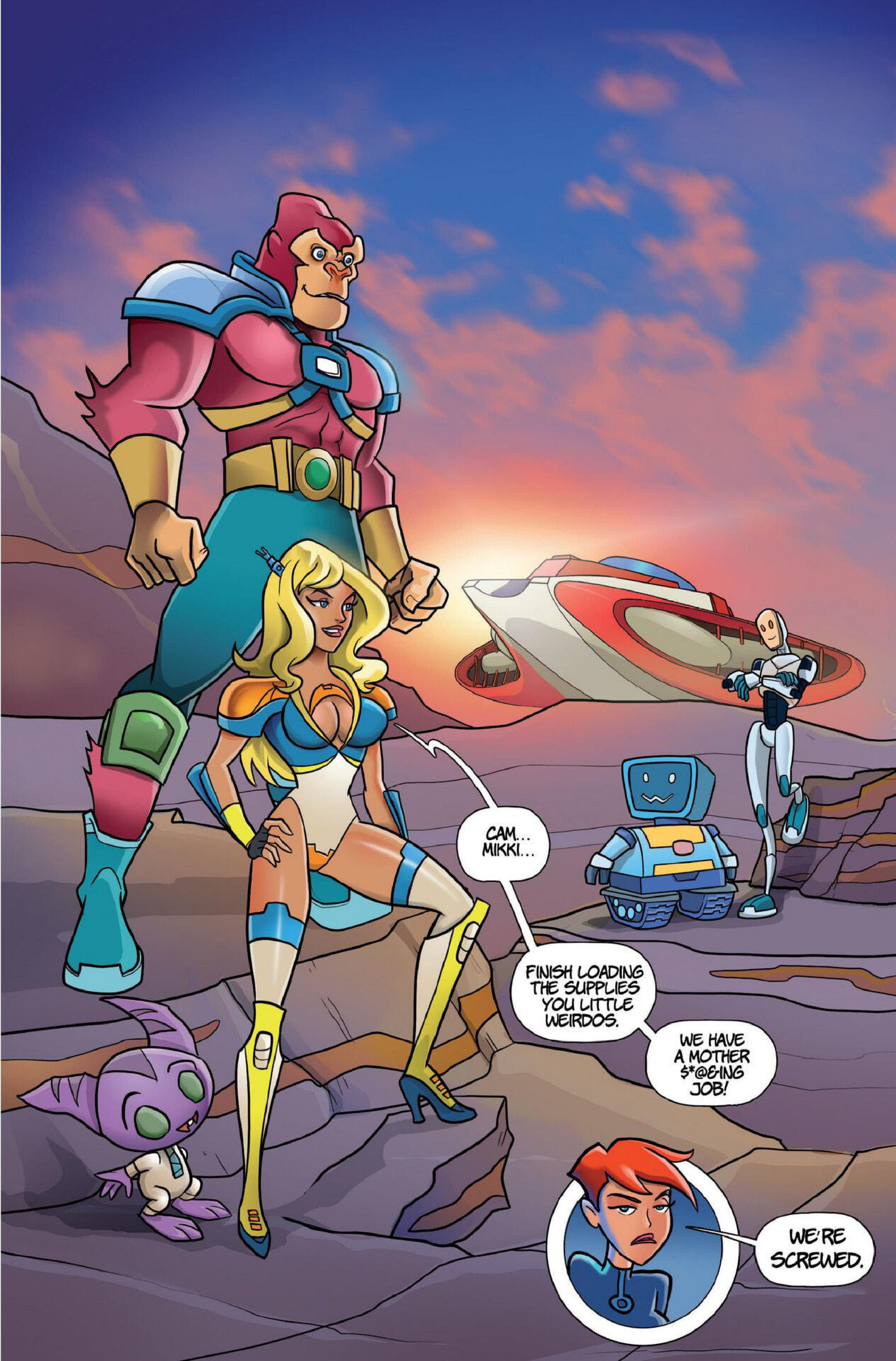

AND ORDON?
TELL HIS ORANGE ASS I'LL CALL HIM BACK WHEN WE'RE ABOARD THE HELIX.
I AM SLIGHTLY AROUSED.
MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MUUUNEY!
AWWW, DAMN IT.
PAY! YOU PAY NOW!
SQUEEEBS! SQUEEBLE DABBLE WABBLE BLAZT!
BIG HELP YOU WERE, YA LITTLE CREEP. I'M FINE, BY THE WAY.
LOCATED.

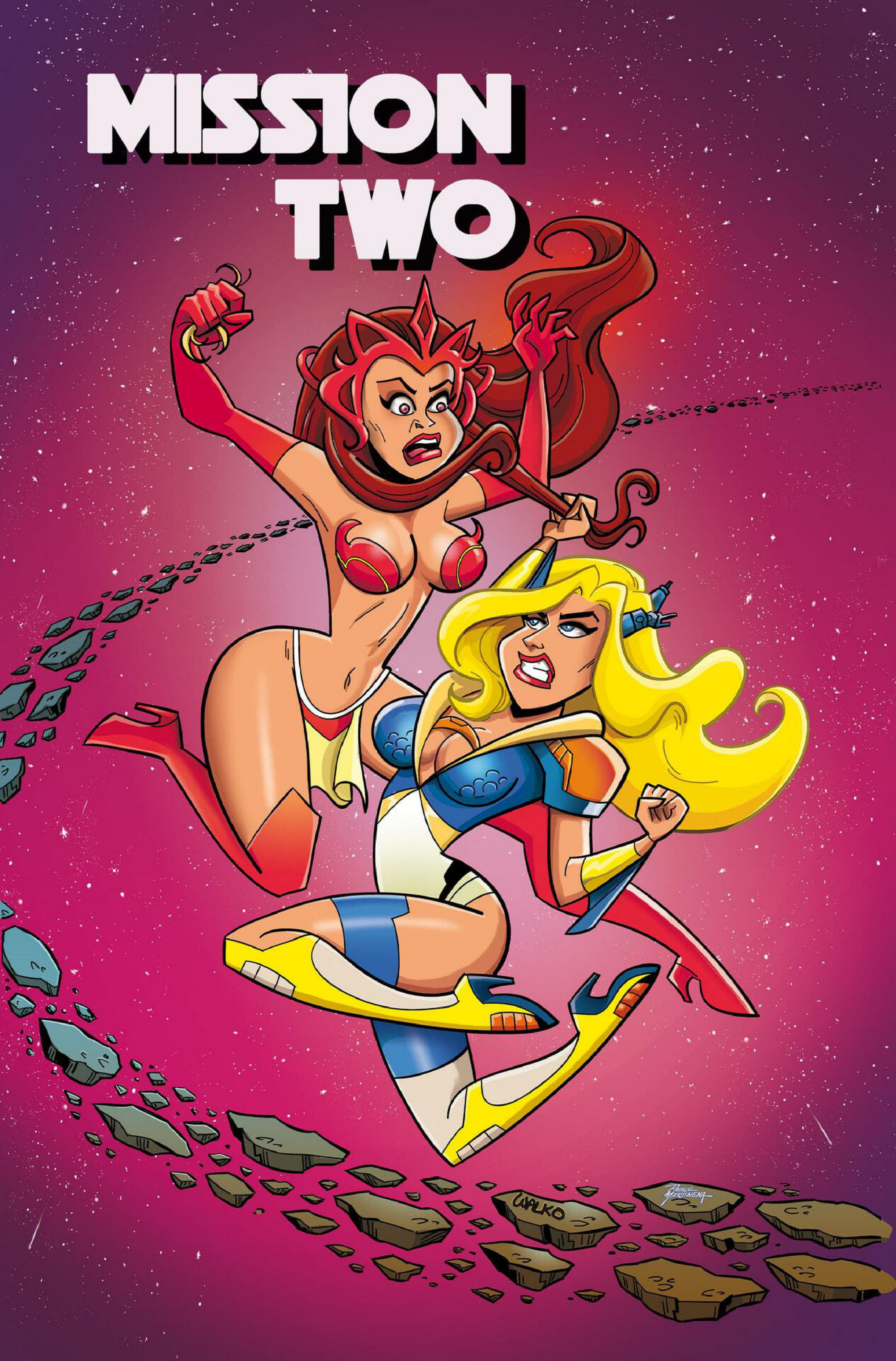

HAVE YOU PICKED UP ANY SIGNALS YET LIEUTENANT?
NO WORD FROM BROCK OR GRANT, COMMANDER REDINGTON.
AND THEIR TRANSPONDER CHIPS SEEM TO HAVE BEEN DEACTIVATED.
I CANNOT EVEN CONFIRM THEY ARE STILL ON THE PLANET.
HOW DOES SOMEONE DEACTIVATE A TRANSPONDER IN SOMEONE'S BUTT?
WELL, IT IS IN THEIR BUTT CHEEK NOT ACTUALLY IN THEIR BUTT.
IT'S PLANTED INSIDE THEIR...
RHETORICAL, LIEUTENANT
AND THE STRIKE FORCE?
NOTHING, NOR CAN I FIND THEIR LANDING CRAFT. SHOULD I REPORT BACK TO...
WHOOOOOP! WHOOOOOOP!
WHOOOOOP!
INCOMING STARSHIPS!

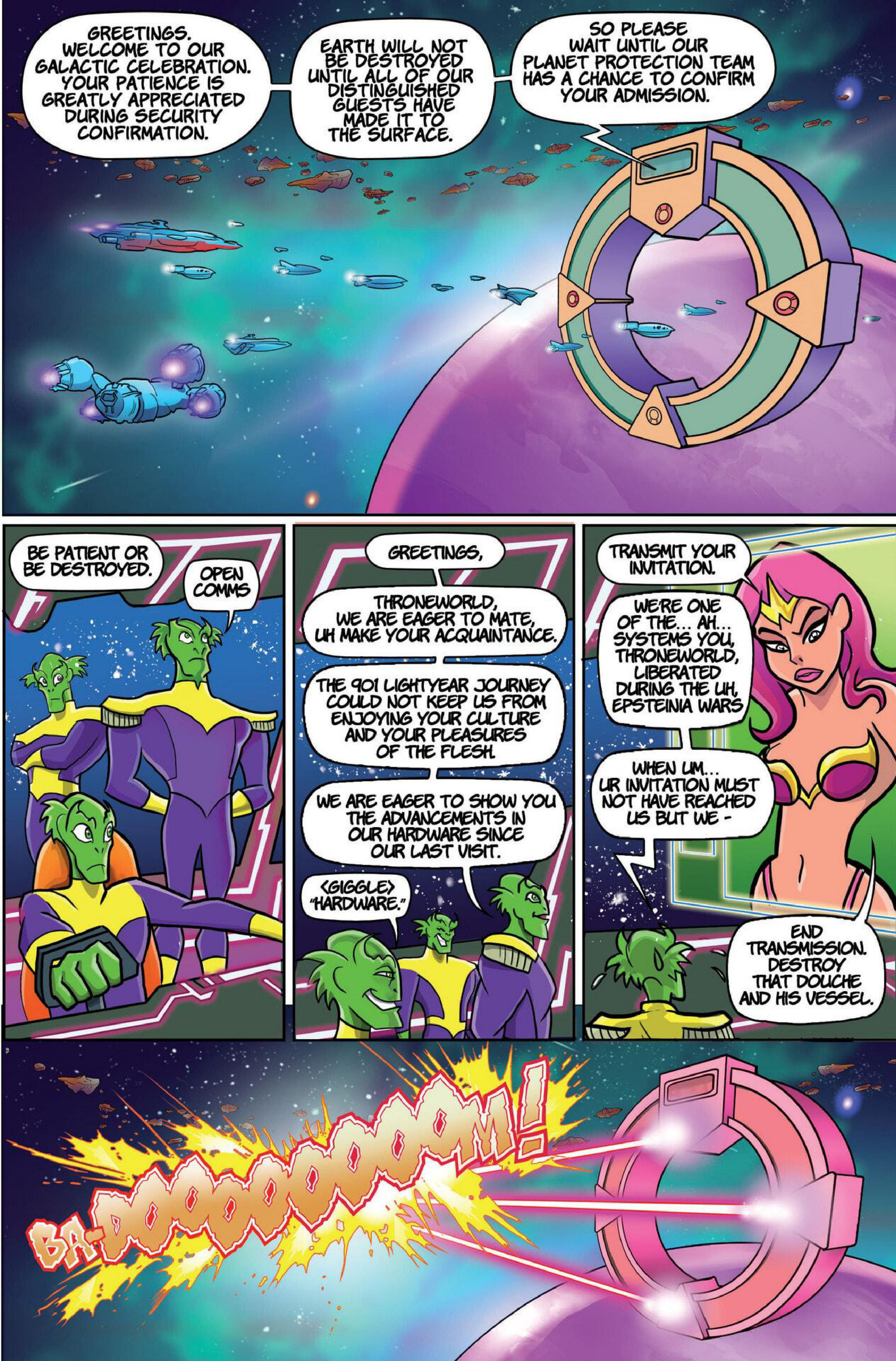

BWEEOOM!
BWEEOOM!
THOOOOMM
BZZZZZT!
POP!
GRRRRRRIZZZZ!
KRAAAACK!
SHIELDS!
TOO LATE. SHIELD GENERATION REACTOR DOWN.
REBOOT THE SGR!
DAMAGED! NO RESPONSE!
THOOOOM!
YOU ARE IN THRONEWORLD ORBIT ILLEGALLY. SURRENDER OR BE DESTROYED. COMPLIANCE REQUIRED IN 20 SECONDS.
PUT THEM ON SCREEN, DAMN IT!
NOW!

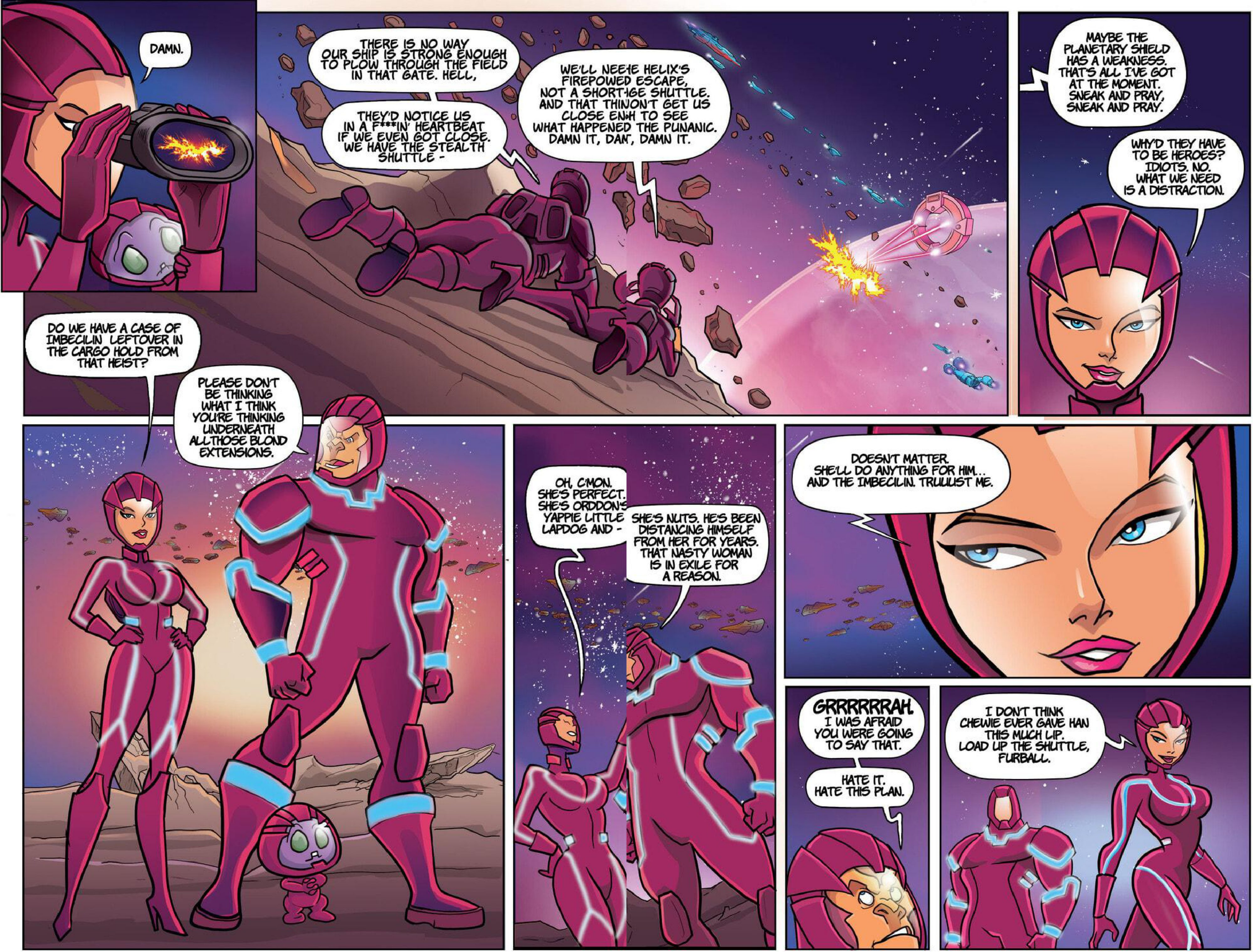

THIS IS COMMANDER REDINGTON OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF EARTH. I DEMAND TO
THERE WILL BE NO DEMANDING, COMMANDER.
YOU WILL SUBMIT TO THE RULE OF THE RED QUEEN OR BE DESTROYED.
11 SECONDS REMAIN IN NEGOTIATION.
WE SURRENDER.
I HAVE AN OPENING IN MY HAREM AND IT APPEARS YOU WILL NOW BE SEARCHING FOR EMPLOYMENT.
FROM CAPTAIN TO CONCUBINE. YOU ARE IN FOR A CAREER CHANGE.
OPEN YOUR BAY. PREPARE TO BE BOARDED.
BLOOP.
BITCH.

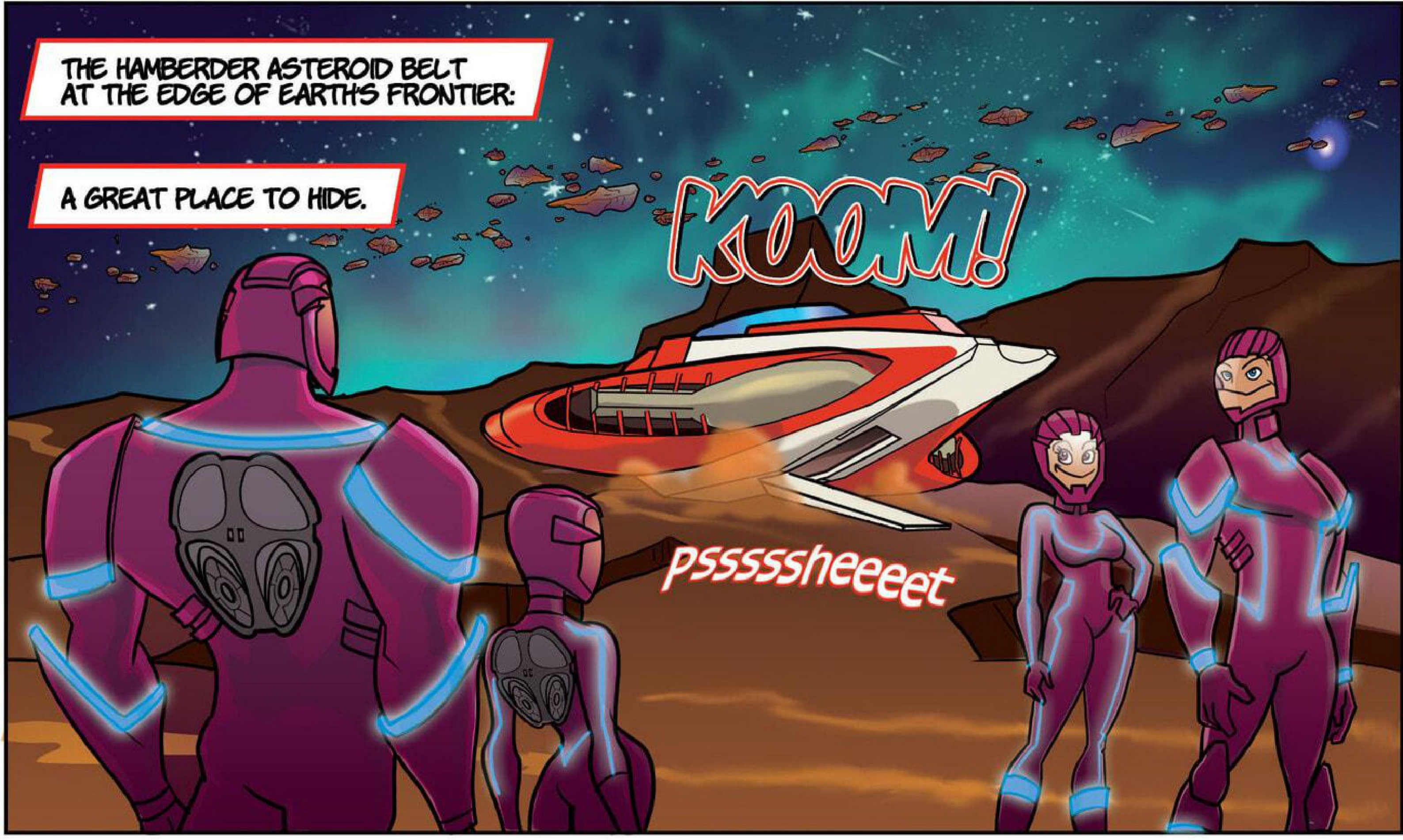

MAYBE HELP WILL COME FOR US.
MAYBE
WE'RE LIGHT-YEARS FROM THE NEAREST OUTPOST.
NO HEAVY CRUISERS IN THIS SECTOR.
WE'RE ON OUR OWN
CORRECTION. SCANNERS INDICATE THAT THE NEAREST U.R.E. STARSHIP IS THE HELIX, CURRENTLY DOCKED AT STARBASE 45.
COMMANDER, THAT IS...
YES. THAT'S CAPTAIN DANIELS
AND HER CREW OF THIEVES, CUTTHROATS, AND IDIOTS.

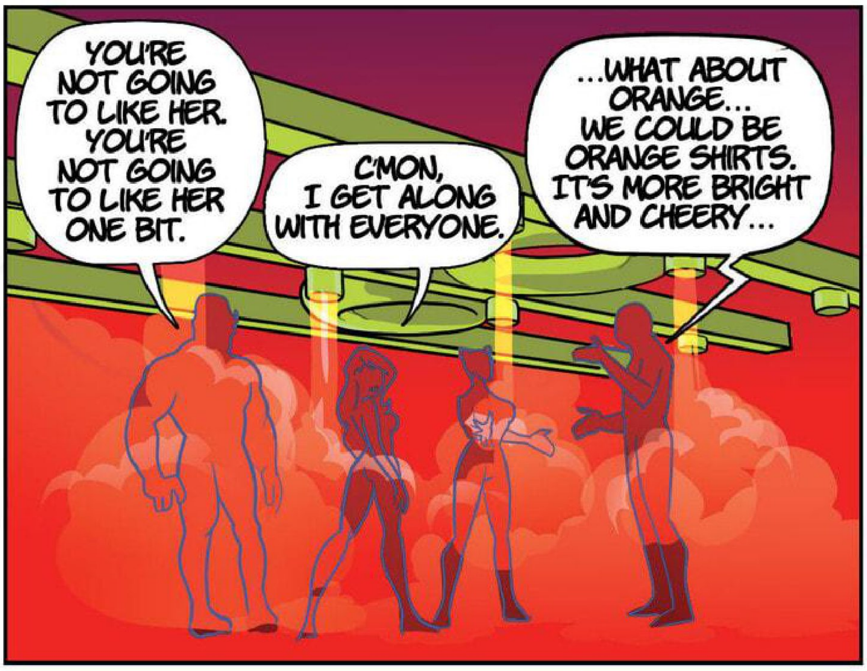

CAM... MIKKI...
FINISH LOADING THE SUPPLIES YOU LITTLE WEIRDOS.
WE HAVE A MOTHER $*@&-ING JOB!
WE'RE SCREWED.

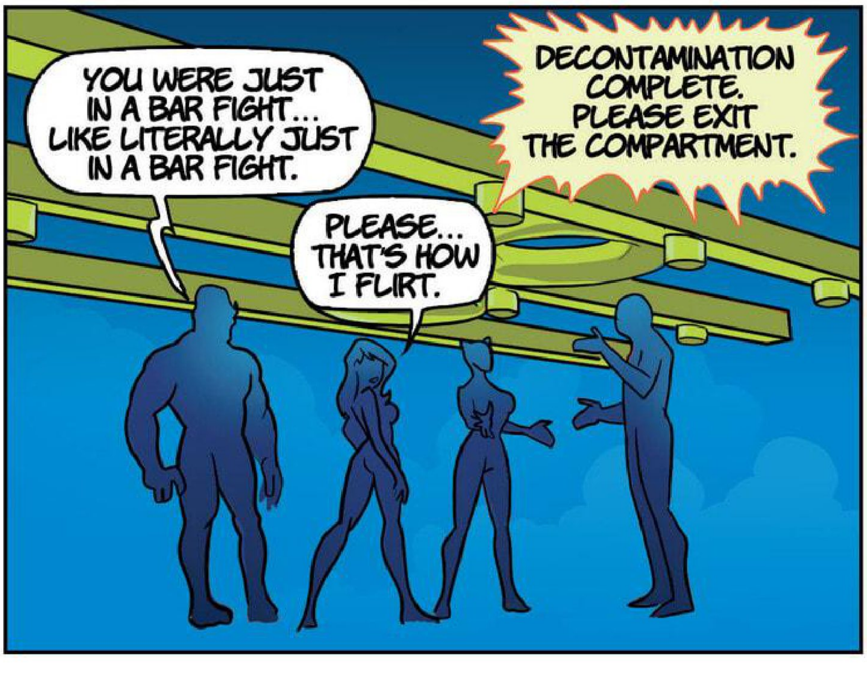

MISSION
TWO
WALKO
PABLO MARTINENA

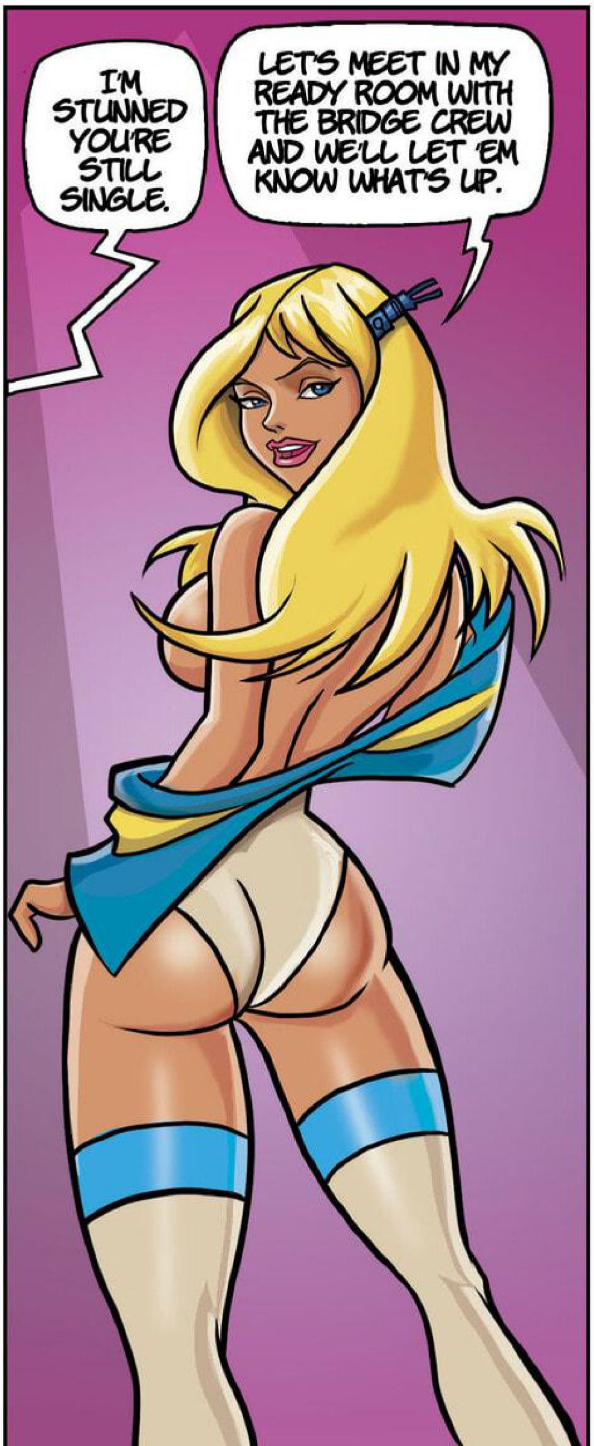

GREETINGS. WELCOME TO OUR GALACTIC CELEBRATION. YOUR PATIENCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED DURING SECURITY CONFIRMATION.
EARTH WILL NOT BE DESTROYED UNTIL ALL OF OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS HAVE MADE IT TO THE SURFACE.
SO PLEASE WAIT UNTIL OUR PLANET PROTECTION TEAM HAS A CHANCE TO CONFIRM YOUR ADMISSION.
BE PATIENT OR BE DESTROYED.
OPEN COMMS
GREETINGS,
THRONEWORLD, WE ARE EAGER TO MATE, UH MAKE YOUR ACQUAINTANCE.
THE 901 LIGHTYEAR JOURNEY COULD NOT KEEP US FROM ENJOYING YOUR CULTURE AND YOUR PLEASURES OF THE FLESH.
WE ARE EAGER TO SHOW YOU THE ADVANCEMENTS IN OUR HARDWARE SINCE OUR LAST VISIT.
<GIGGLE> "HARDWARE."
TRANSMIT YOUR INVITATION.
WE'RE ONE OF THE... AH... SYSTEMS YOU, THRONEWORLD, LIBERATED DURING THE UH, EPSTEINIA WARS
WHEN UM... UR INVITATION MUST NOT HAVE REACHED US BUT WE -
END TRANSMISSION. DESTROY THAT DOUCHE AND HIS VESSEL.
BA-DOOOOOOOOM!

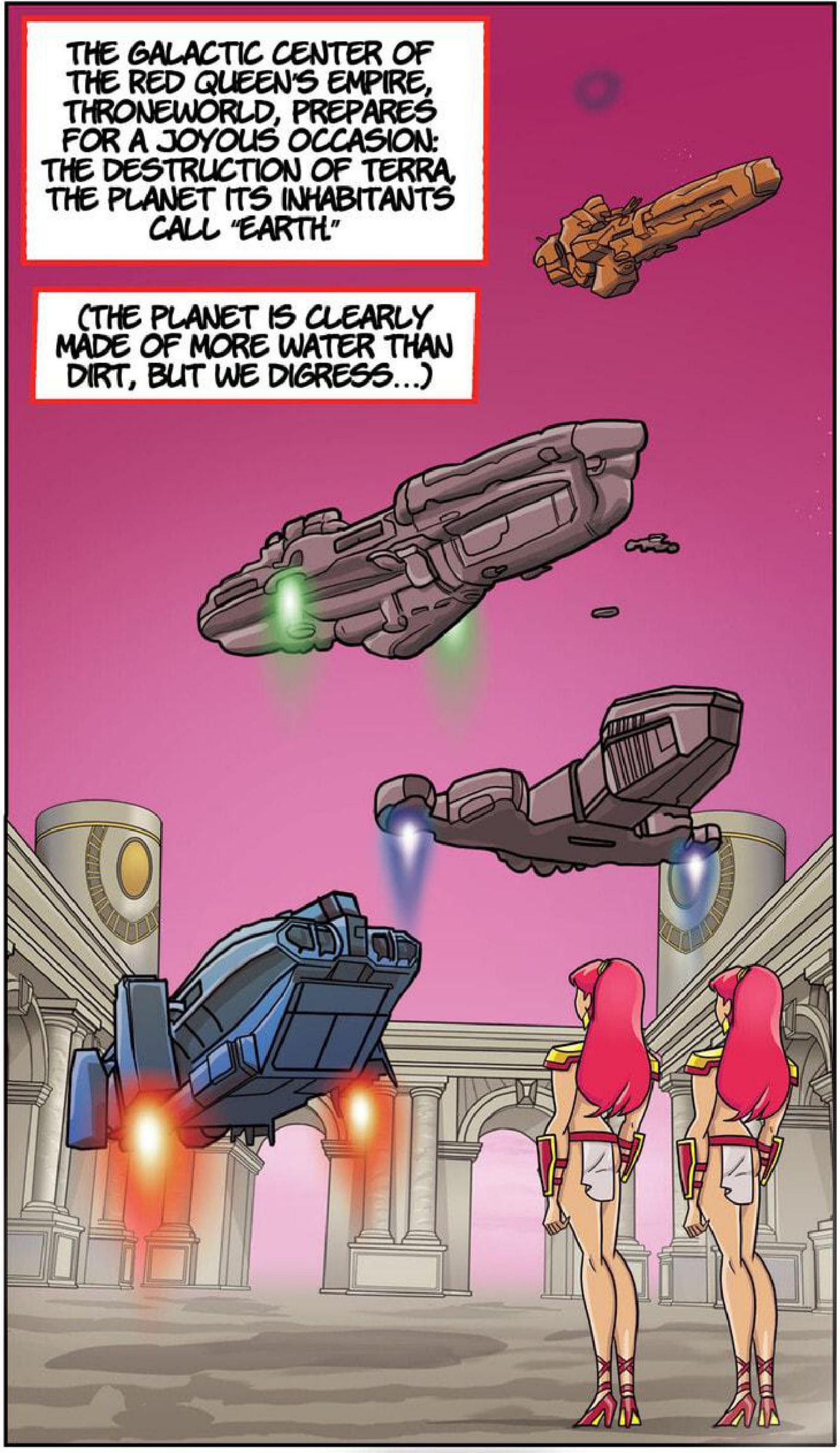

DAMN.
THERE IS NO WAY OUR SHIP IS STRONG ENOUGH TO PLOW THROUGH THE FIELD IN THAT GATE. HELL,
THEY'D NOTICE US IN A F***IN' HEARTBEAT IF WE EVEN GOT CLOSE. WE HAVE THE STEALTH SHUTTLE -
WE'LL NEE'E HELIX'S FIREPOWED ESCAPE, NOT A SHORT'GE SHUTTLE. AND THAT THINON'T GET US CLOSE ENH TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED THE PUNANIC. DAMN IT, DAN', DAMN IT.
MAYBE THE PLANETARY SHIELD HAS A WEAKNESS. THAT'S ALL I'VE GOT AT THE MOMENT. SNEAK AND PRAY, SNEAK AND PRAY.
WHY'D THEY HAVE TO BE HEROES? IDIOTS. NO. WHAT WE NEED IS A DISTRACTION.
DO WE HAVE A CASE OF IMBECILIN LEFTOVER IN THE CARGO HOLD FROM THAT HEIST?
PLEASE DON'T BE THINKING WHAT I THINK YOU'RE THINKING UNDERNEATH ALL THOSE BLOND EXTENSIONS.
OH, C'MON. SHE'S PERFECT. SHE'S ORDDON'S YAPPIE LITTLE LAPDOG AND -
SHE'S NUTS. HE'S BEEN DISTANCING HIMSELF FROM HER FOR YEARS. THAT NASTY WOMAN IS IN EXILE FOR A REASON.
DOESN'T MATTER. SHE'LL DO ANYTHING FOR HIM... AND THE IMBECILIN. TRUUUST ME.
GRRRRRRAH. I WAS AFRAID YOU WERE GOING TO SAY THAT.
HATE IT. HATE THIS PLAN.
I DON'T THINK CHEWIE EVER GAVE HAN THIS MUCH LIP. LOAD UP THE SHUTTLE, FURBALL.

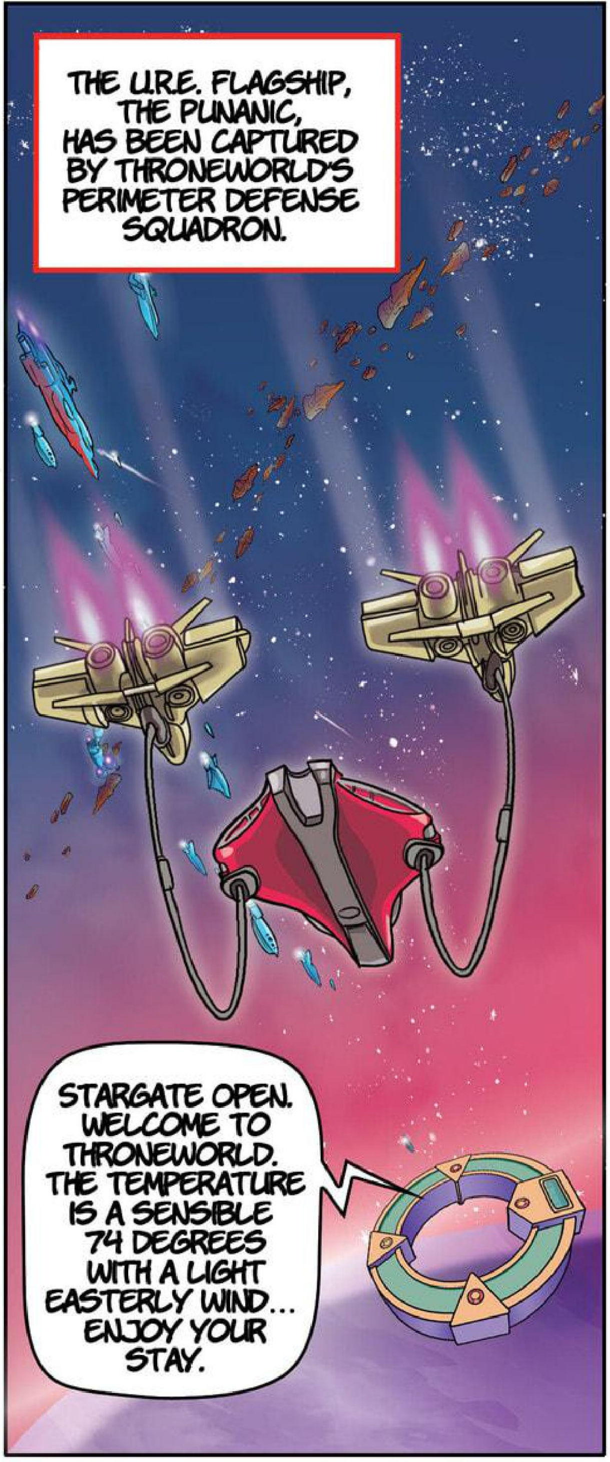

THE HAMBERDER ASTEROID BELT AT THE EDGE OF EARTH'S FRONTIER:
A GREAT PLACE TO HIDE.
KOOM!
psssssheeeet

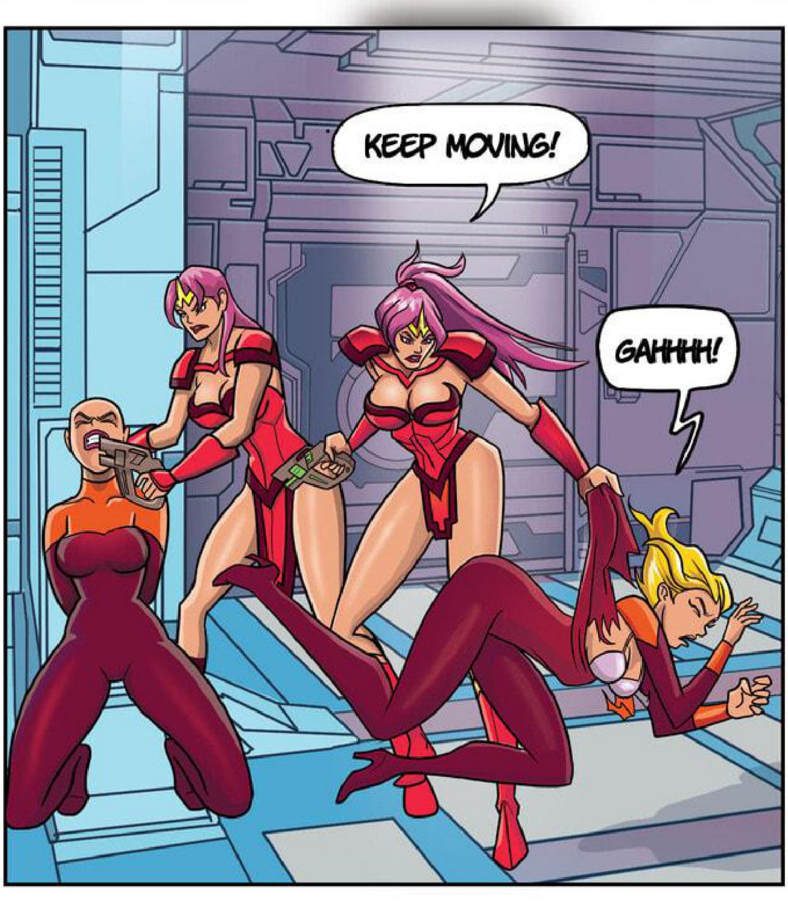

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE HER. YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIKE HER ONE BIT.
C'MON, I GET ALONG WITH EVERYONE.
...WHAT ABOUT ORANGE... WE COULD BE ORANGE SHIRTS. IT'S MORE BRIGHT AND CHEERY...

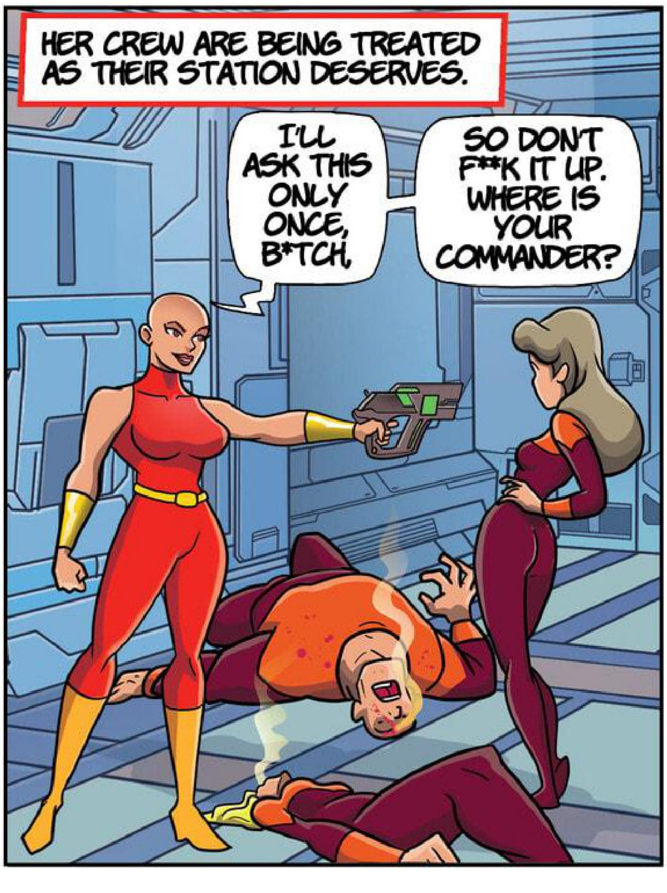

YOU WERE JUST IN A BAR FIGHT... LIKE LITERALLY JUST IN A BAR FIGHT.
DECONTAMINATION COMPLETE. PLEASE EXIT THE COMPARTMENT.
PLEASE... THAT'S HOW I FLIRT.

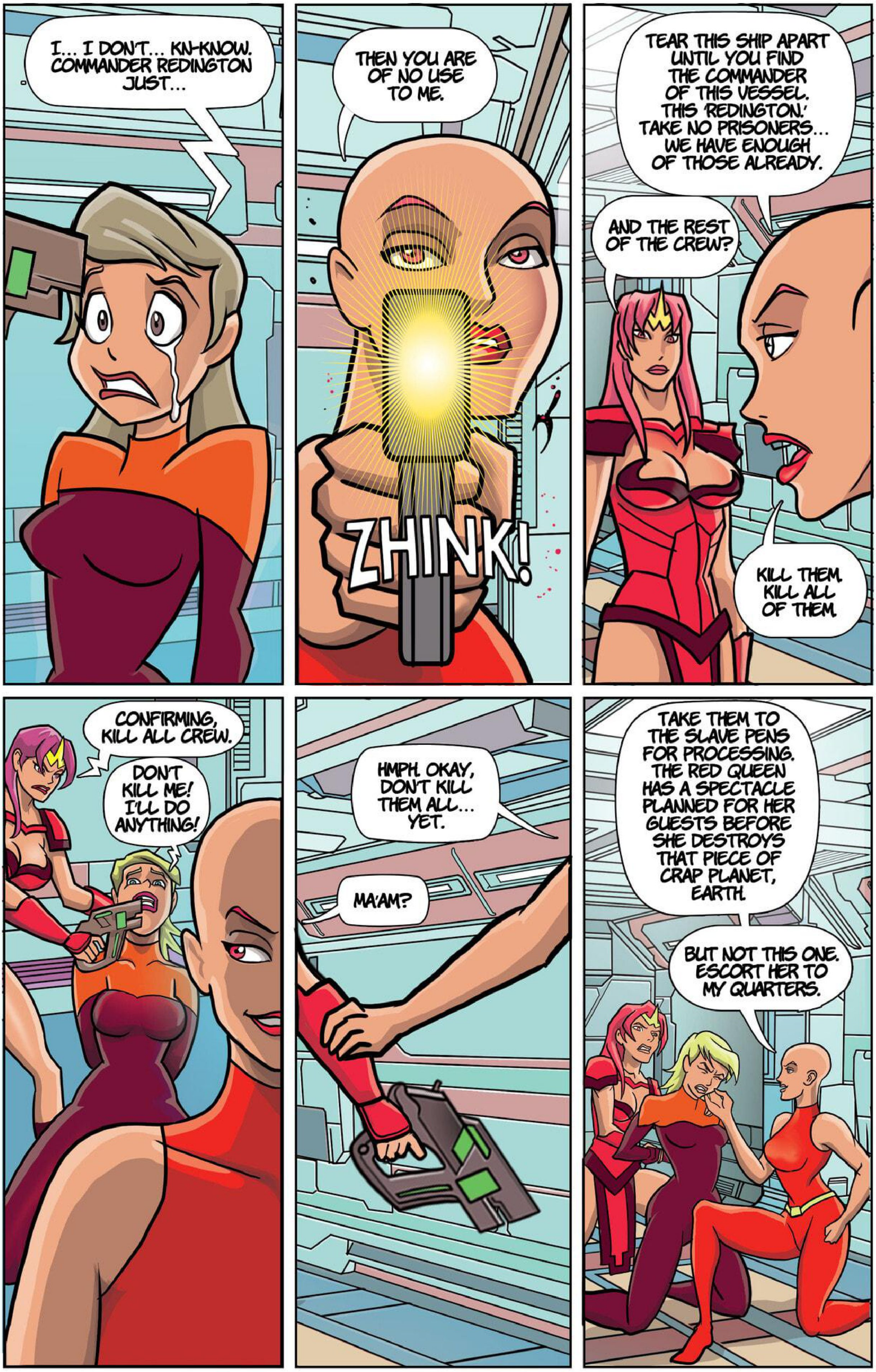

I'M STUNNED YOU'RE STILL SINGLE.
LET'S MEET IN MY READY ROOM WITH THE BRIDGE CREW AND WE'LL LET 'EM KNOW WHAT'S UP.

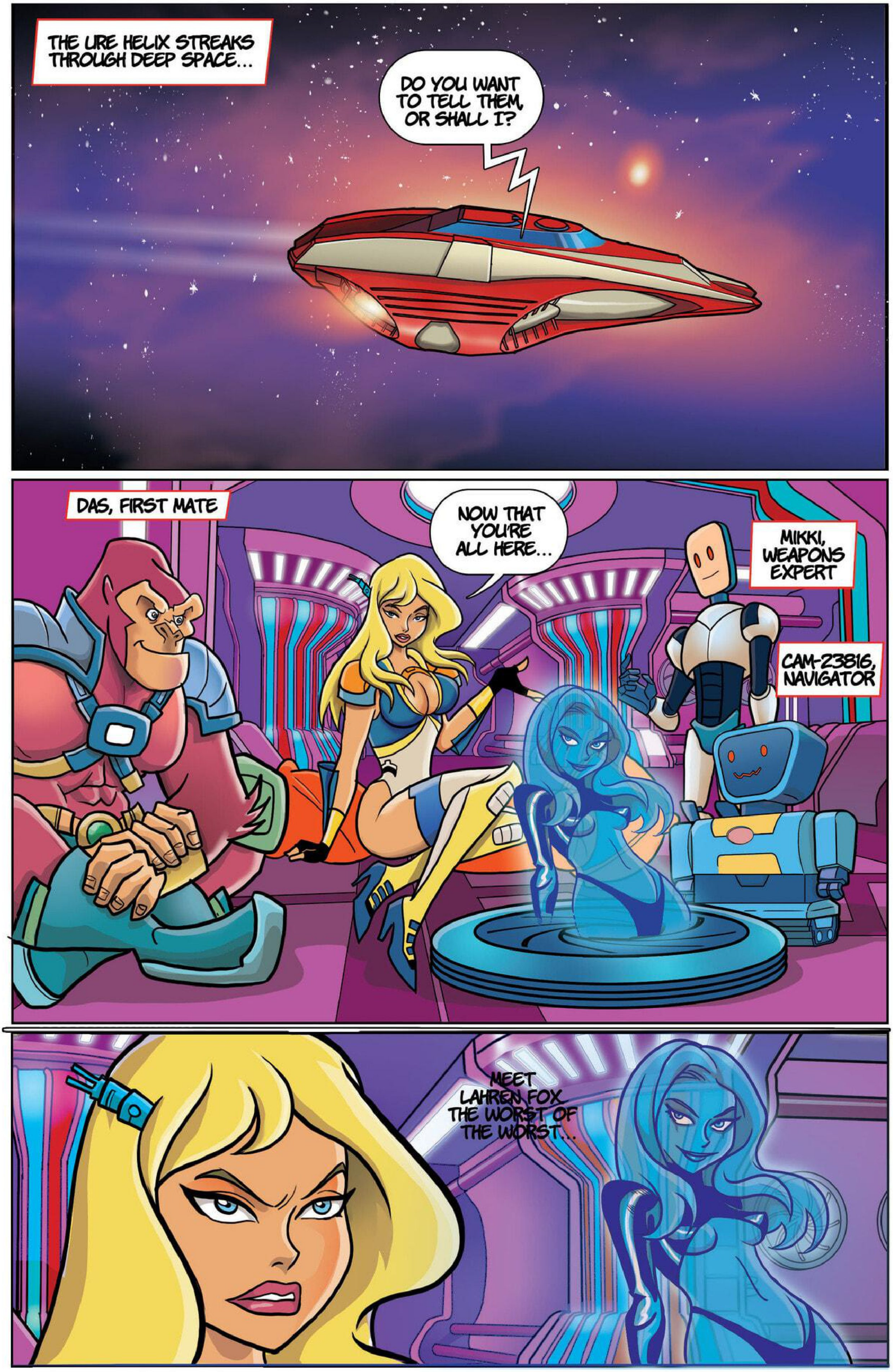

THE GALACTIC CENTER OF THE RED QUEEN'S EMPIRE, THRONEWORLD, PREPARES FOR A JOYOUS OCCASION: THE DESTRUCTION OF TERRA, THE PLANET ITS INHABITANTS CALL "EARTH."
(THE PLANET IS CLEARLY MADE OF MORE WATER THAN DIRT, BUT WE DIGRESS...)

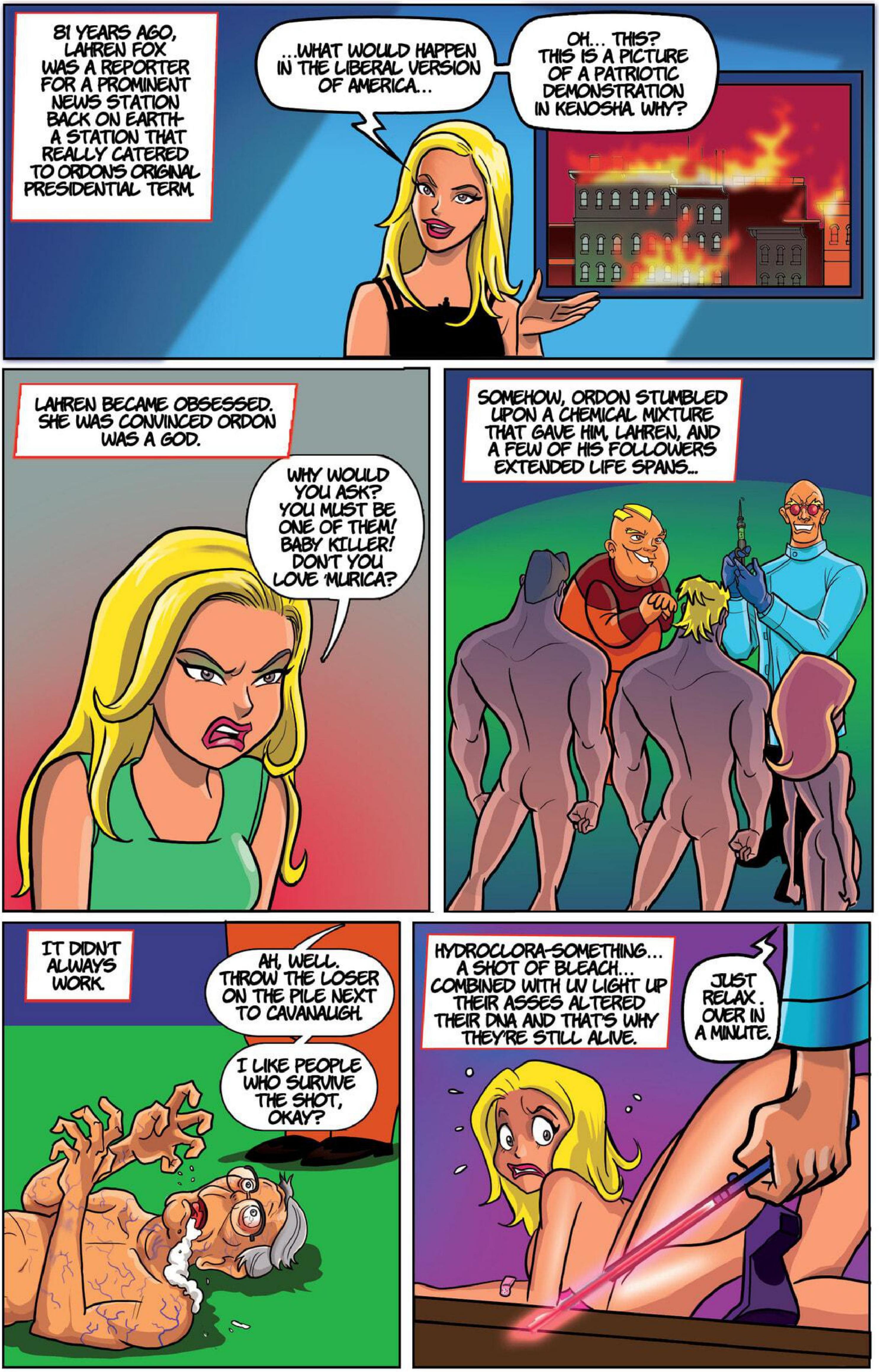

THE U.R.E. FLAGSHIP, THE PUNANIC, HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THRONEWORLD'S PERIMETER DEFENSE SQUADRON.
STARGATE OPEN. WELCOME TO THRONEWORLD. THE TEMPERATURE IS A SENSIBLE 74 DEGREES WITH A LIGHT EASTERLY WIND... ENJOY YOUR STAY.

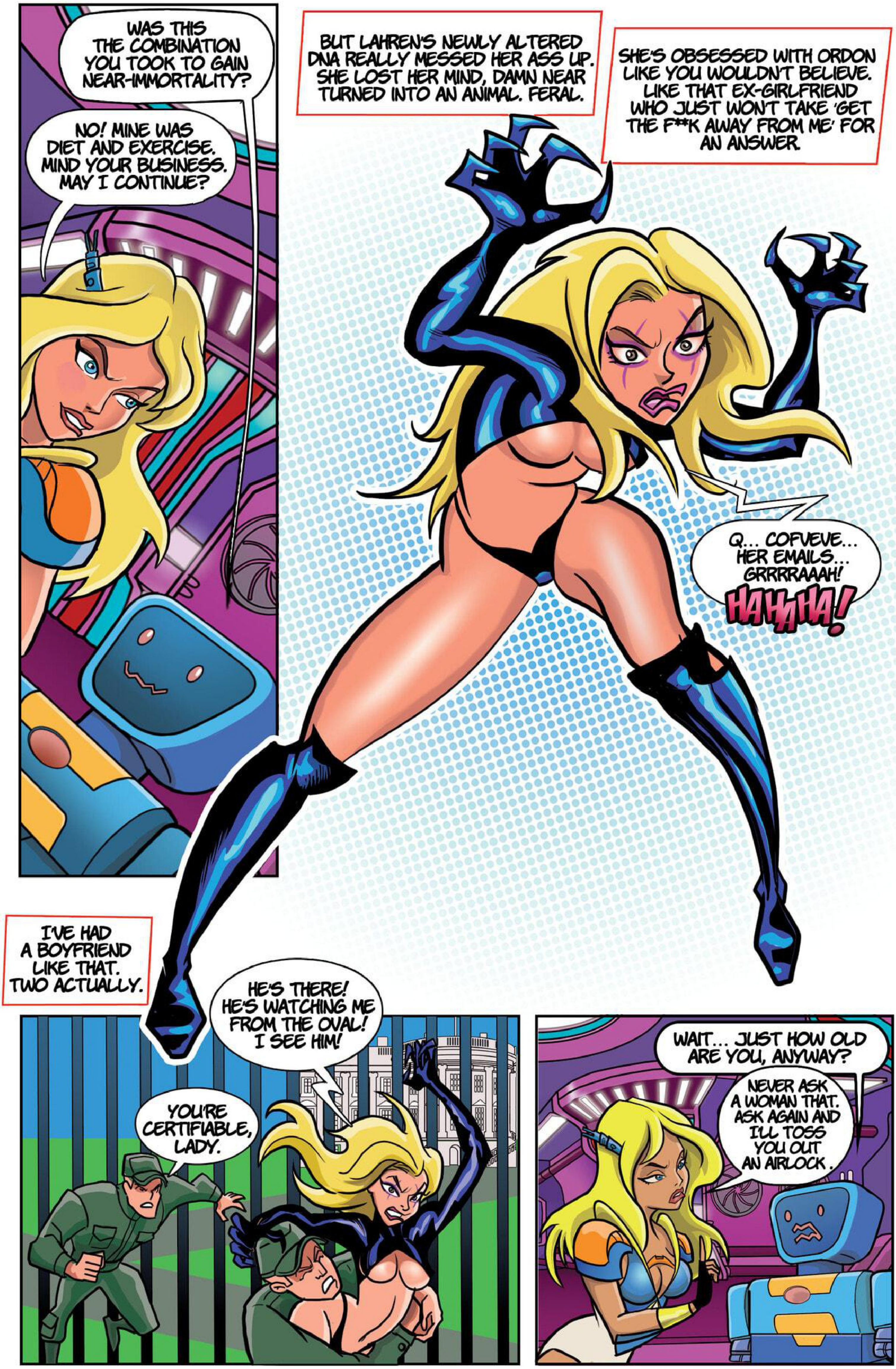

KEEP MOVING!
GAHHHH!

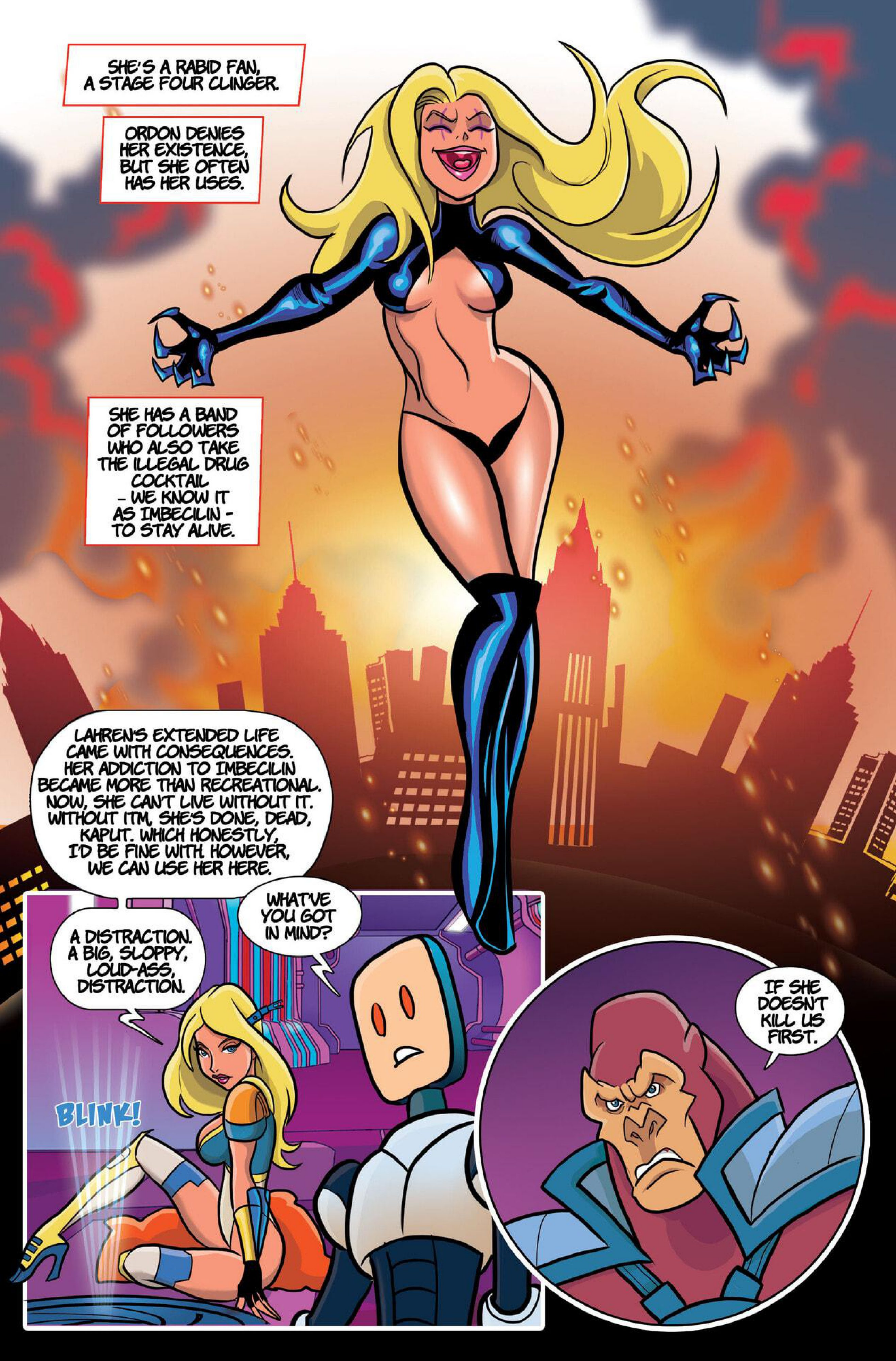

HER CREW ARE BEING TREATED AS THEIR STATION DESERVES.
I'LL ASK THIS ONLY ONCE, B*TCH,
SO DON'T F**K IT UP. WHERE IS YOUR COMMANDER?

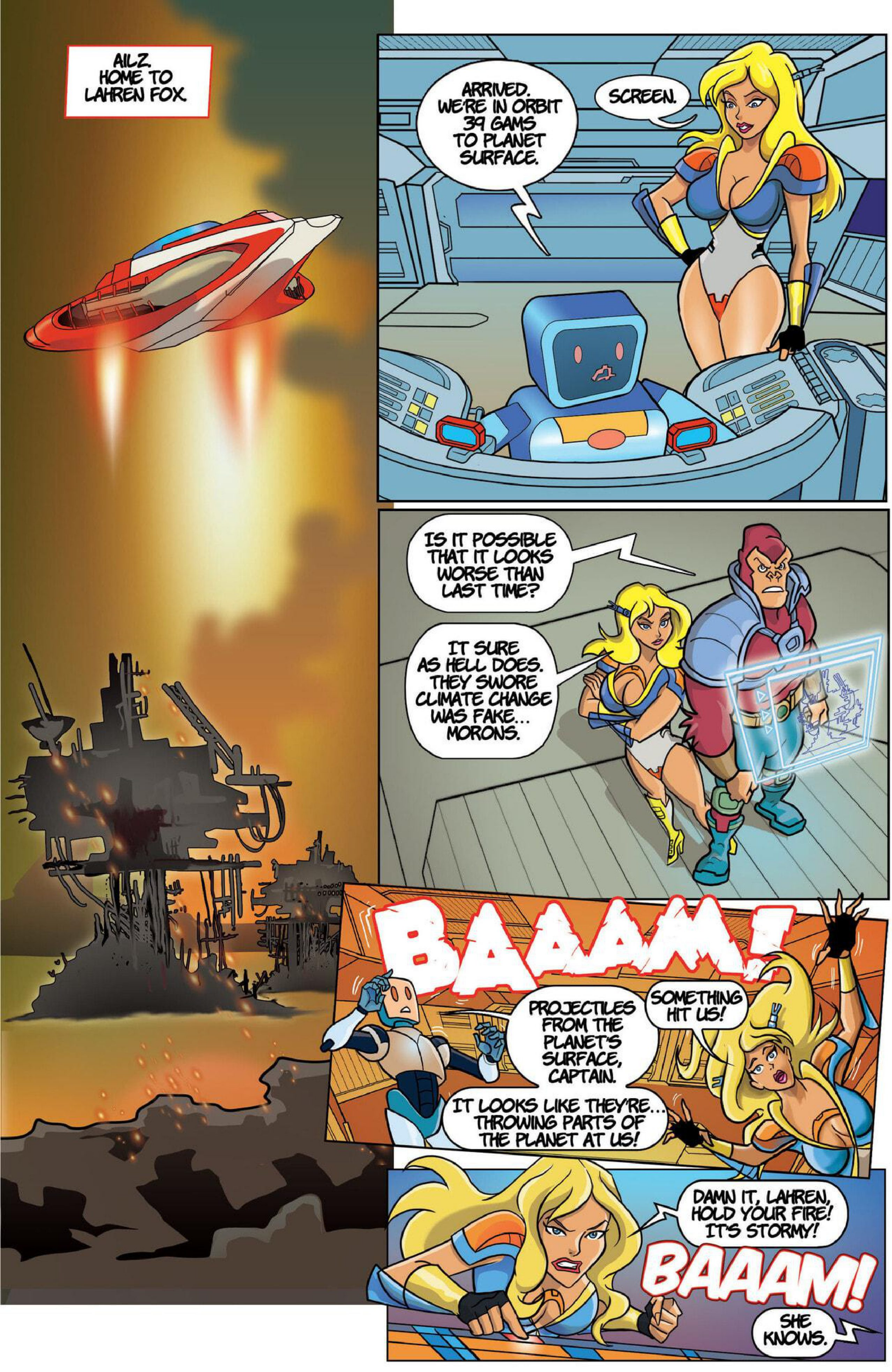

I... I DON'T... KN-KNOW. COMMANDER REDINGTON JUST...
THEN YOU ARE OF NO USE TO ME.
ZHINK!
TEAR THIS SHIP APART UNTIL YOU FIND THE COMMANDER OF THIS VESSEL. THIS 'REDINGTON.' TAKE NO PRISONERS... WE HAVE ENOUGH OF THOSE ALREADY.
AND THE REST OF THE CREW?
KILL THEM. KILL ALL OF THEM.
CONFIRMING, KILL ALL CREW.
DON'T KILL ME! I'LL DO ANYTHING!
HMPH. OKAY, DON'T KILL THEM ALL... YET.
MA'AM?
TAKE THEM TO THE SLAVE PENS FOR PROCESSING. THE RED QUEEN HAS A SPECTACLE PLANNED FOR HER GUESTS BEFORE SHE DESTROYS THAT PIECE OF CRAP PLANET, EARTH.
BUT NOT THIS ONE. ESCORT HER TO MY QUARTERS.

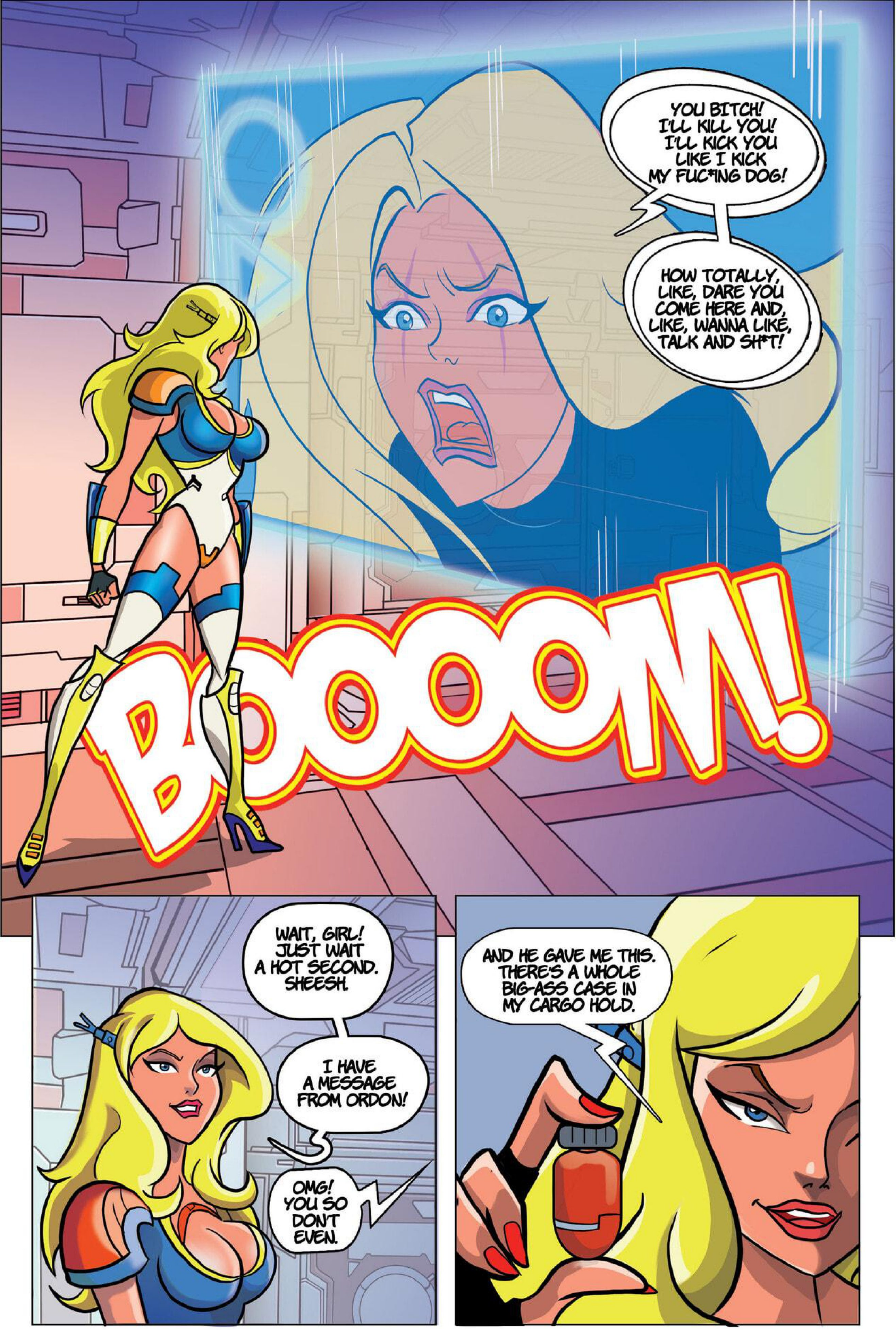

THE URE HELIX STREAKS THROUGH DEEP SPACE...
DO YOU WANT TO TELL THEM, OR SHALL I?
DAS, FIRST MATE
NOW THAT YOU'RE ALL HERE...
MIKKI, WEAPONS EXPERT
CAM-23816, NAVIGATOR
MEET LAHREN FOX THE WORST OF THE WORST...

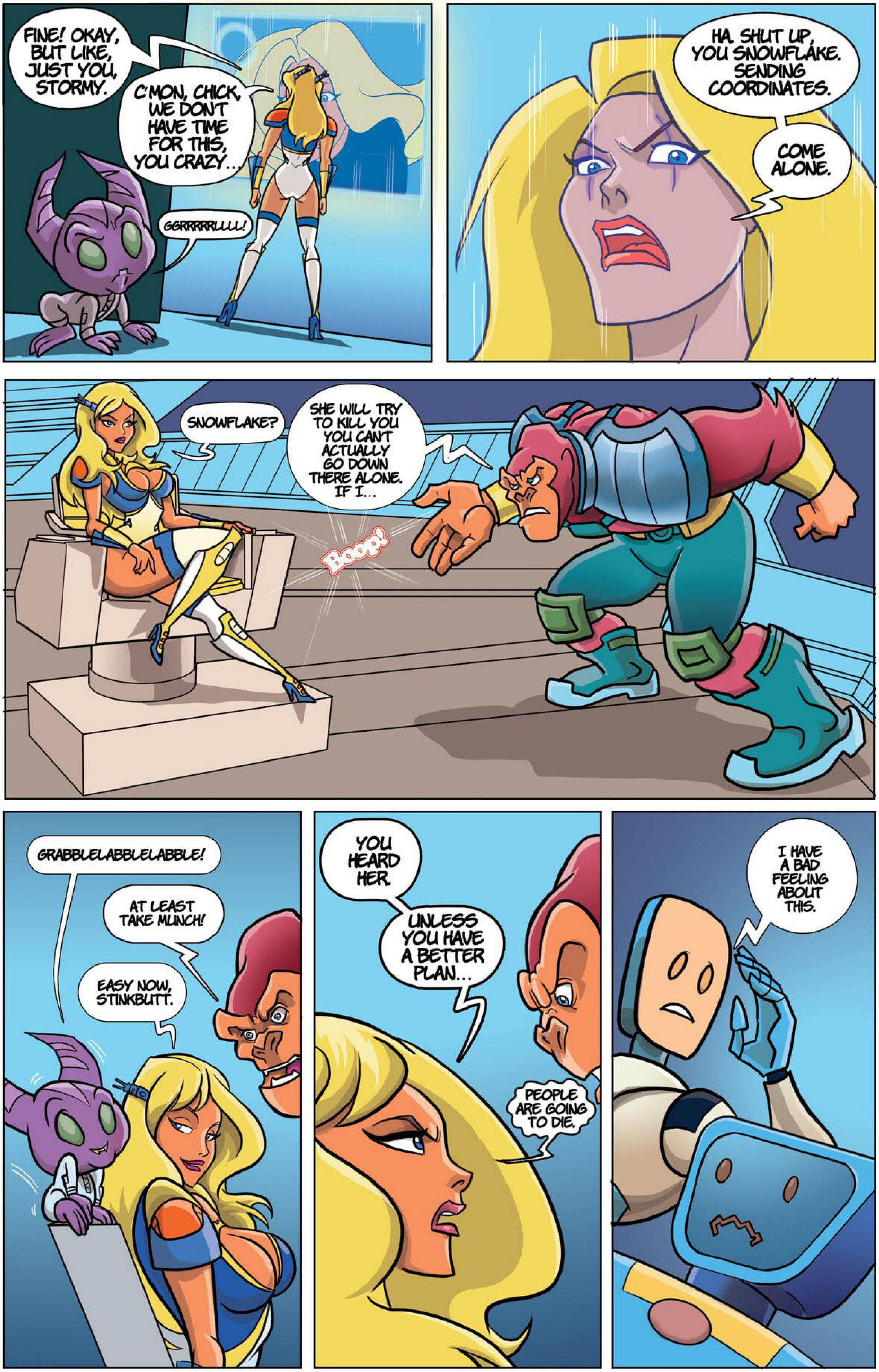

81 YEARS AGO, LAHREN FOX WAS A REPORTER FOR A PROMINENT NEWS STATION BACK ON EARTH- A STATION THAT REALLY CATERED TO ORDON'S ORIGINAL PRESIDENTIAL TERM.
...WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IN THE LIBERAL VERSION OF AMERICA...
OH... THIS? THIS IS A PICTURE OF A PATRIOTIC DEMONSTRATION IN KENOSHA. WHY?
LAHREN BECAME OBSESSED. SHE WAS CONVINCED ORDON WAS A GOD.
WHY WOULD YOU ASK? YOU MUST BE ONE OF THEM! BABY KILLER! DON'T YOU LOVE 'MURICA?
SOMEHOW, ORDON STUMBLED UPON A CHEMICAL MIXTURE THAT GAVE HIM, LAHREN, AND A FEW OF HIS FOLLOWERS EXTENDED LIFE SPANS...
IT DIDN'T ALWAYS WORK.
AH, WELL. THROW THE LOSER ON THE PILE NEXT TO CAVANAUGH.
I LIKE PEOPLE WHO SURVIVE THE SHOT, OKAY?
HYDROCLORA-SOMETHING... A SHOT OF BLEACH... COMBINED WITH UV LIGHT UP THEIR ASSES ALTERED THEIR DNA AND THAT'S WHY THEY'RE STILL ALIVE.
JUST RELAX. OVER IN A MINUTE.

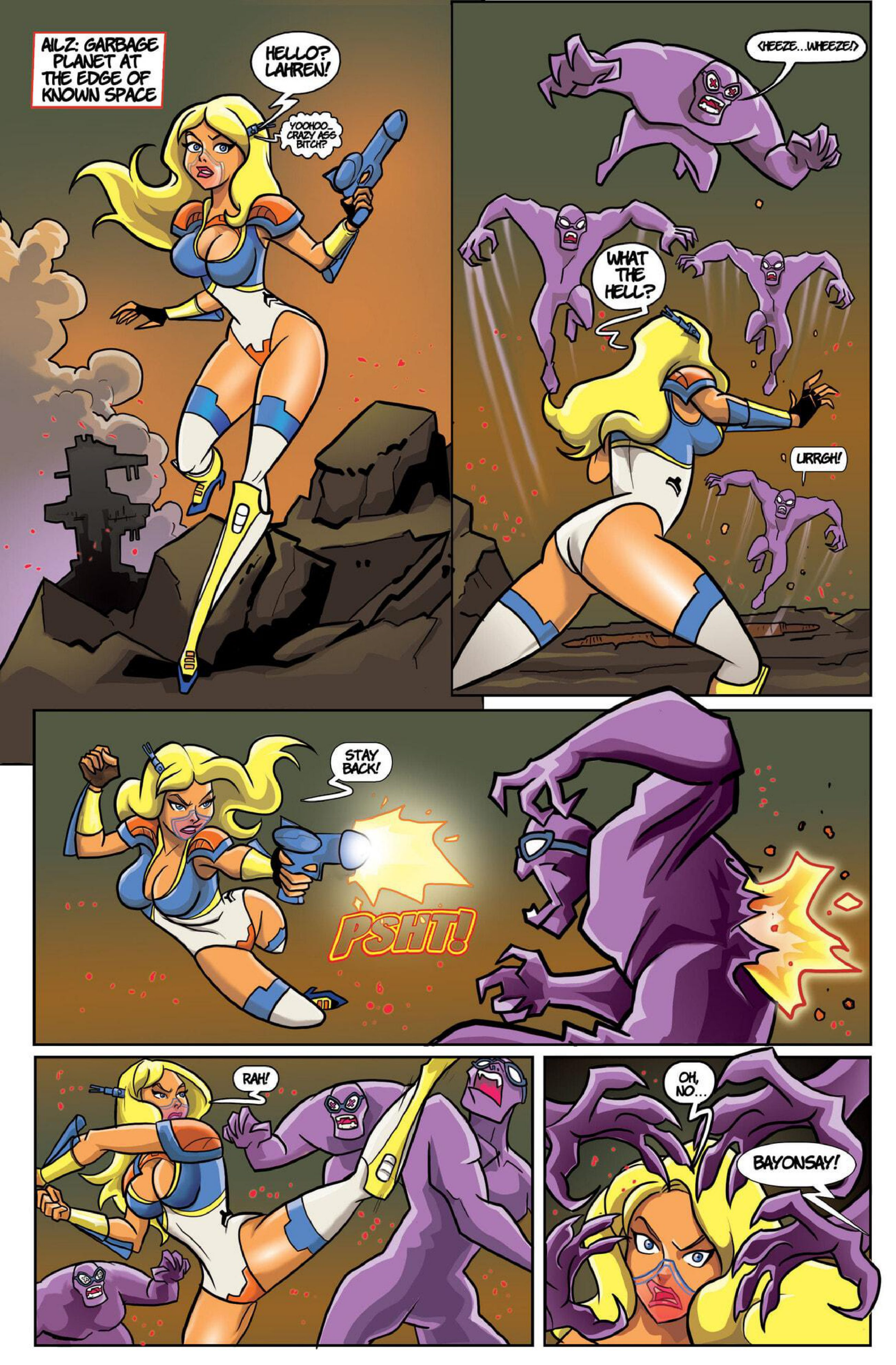

WAS THIS THE COMBINATION YOU TOOK TO GAIN NEAR-IMMORTALITY?
NO! MINE WAS DIET AND EXERCISE. MIND YOUR BUSINESS. MAY I CONTINUE?
BUT LAHREN'S NEWLY ALTERED DNA REALLY MESSED HER ASS UP. SHE LOST HER MIND, DAMN NEAR TURNED INTO AN ANIMAL. FERAL.
SHE'S OBSESSED WITH ORDON LIKE YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE. LIKE THAT EX-GIRLFRIEND WHO JUST WON'T TAKE 'GET THE F**K AWAY FROM ME' FOR AN ANSWER.
Q... COFVEVE... HER EMAILS... GRRRRAAAH!
HAHAHA!
I'VE HAD A BOYFRIEND LIKE THAT. TWO ACTUALLY.
HE'S THERE! HE'S WATCHING ME FROM THE OVAL! I SEE HIM!
YOU'RE CERTIFIABLE, LADY.
WAIT... JUST HOW OLD ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
NEVER ASK A WOMAN THAT. ASK AGAIN AND I'LL TOSS YOU OUT AN AIRLOCK.

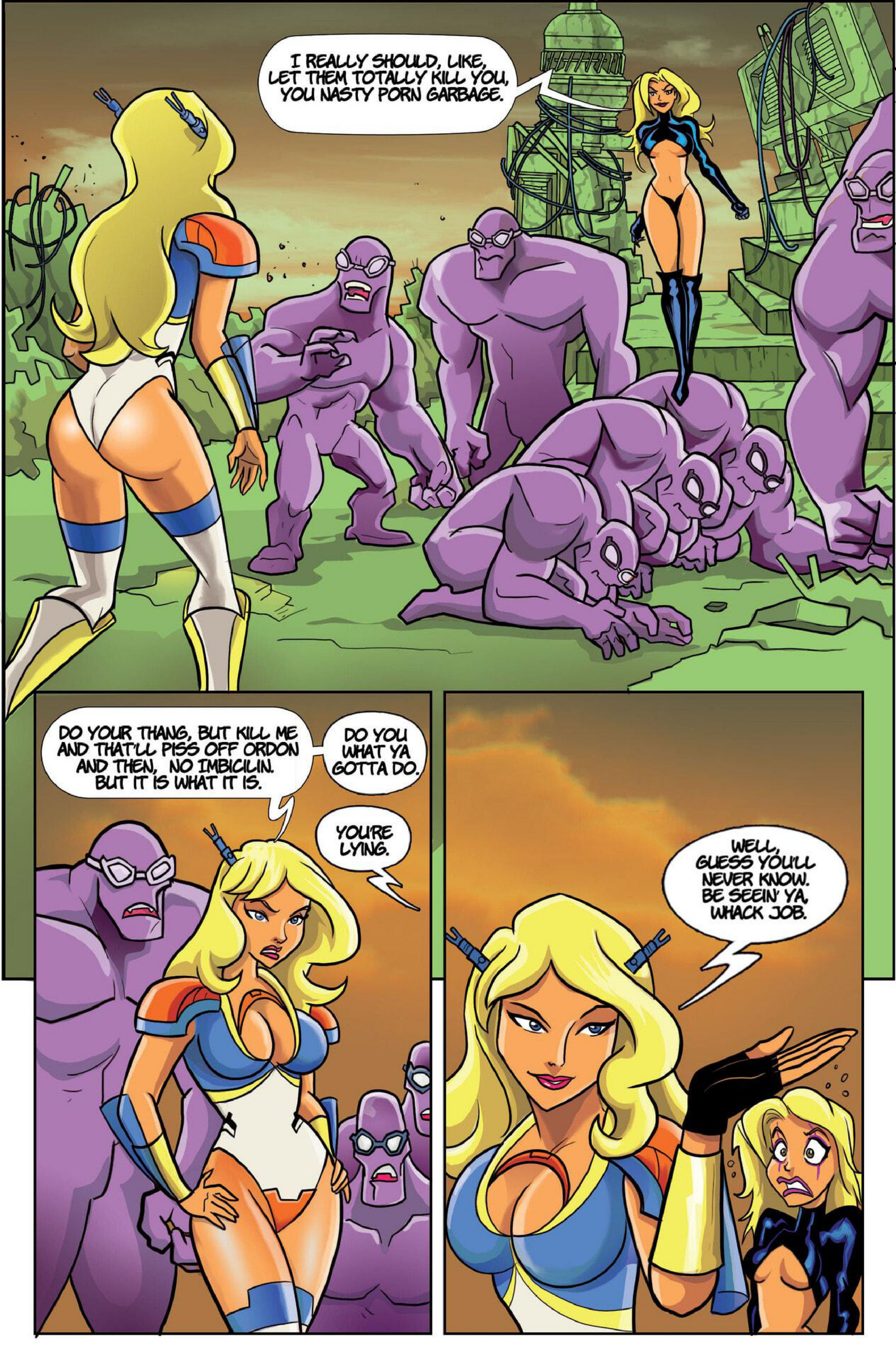

SHE'S A RABID FAN, A STAGE FOUR CLINGER.
ORDON DENIES HER EXISTENCE, BUT SHE OFTEN HAS HER USES.
SHE HAS A BAND OF FOLLOWERS WHO ALSO TAKE THE ILLEGAL DRUG COCKTAIL – WE KNOW IT AS IMBECILIN – TO STAY ALIVE.
LAHREN'S EXTENDED LIFE CAME WITH CONSEQUENCES. HER ADDICTION TO IMBECILIN BECAME MORE THAN RECREATIONAL. NOW, SHE CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT IT. WITHOUT ITM, SHE'S DONE, DEAD, KAPUT. WHICH HONESTLY, I'D BE FINE WITH. HOWEVER, WE CAN USE HER HERE.
WHAT'VE YOU GOT IN MIND?
A DISTRACTION. A BIG, SLOPPY, LOUD-ASS, DISTRACTION.
BLINK!
IF SHE DOESN'T KILL US FIRST.

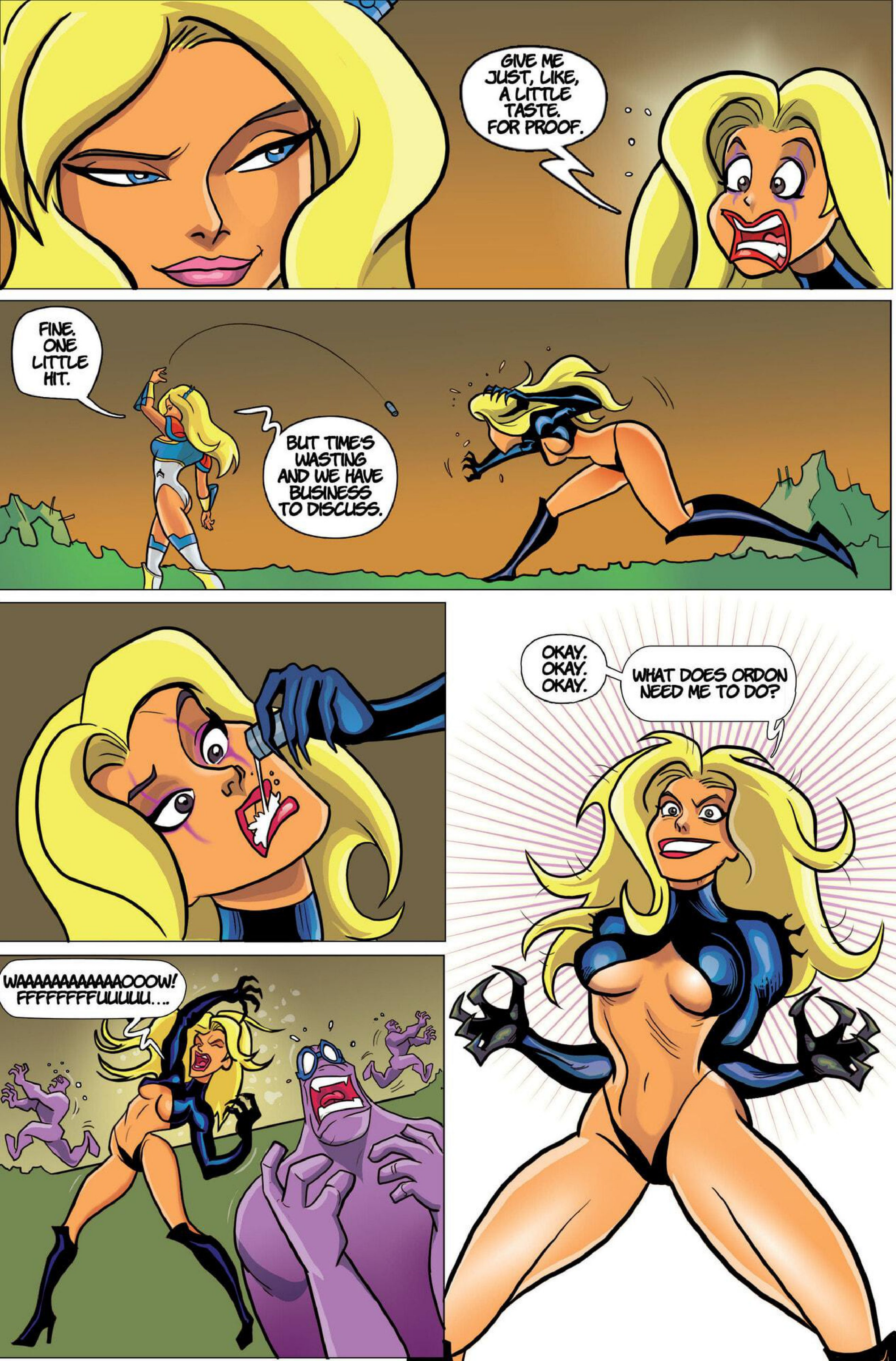

AILZ. HOME TO LAHREN FOX.
ARRIVED. WE'RE IN ORBIT 39 GAMS TO PLANET SURFACE.
SCREEN.
IS IT POSSIBLE THAT IT LOOKS WORSE THAN LAST TIME?
IT SURE AS HELL DOES. THEY SWORE CLIMATE CHANGE WAS FAKE... MORONS.
BAAAM!
SOMETHING HIT US!
PROJECTILES FROM THE PLANET'S SURFACE, CAPTAIN.
IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE... THROWING PARTS OF THE PLANET AT US!
DAMN IT, LAHREN, HOLD YOUR FIRE! IT'S STORMY!
BAAAM!
SHE KNOWS.

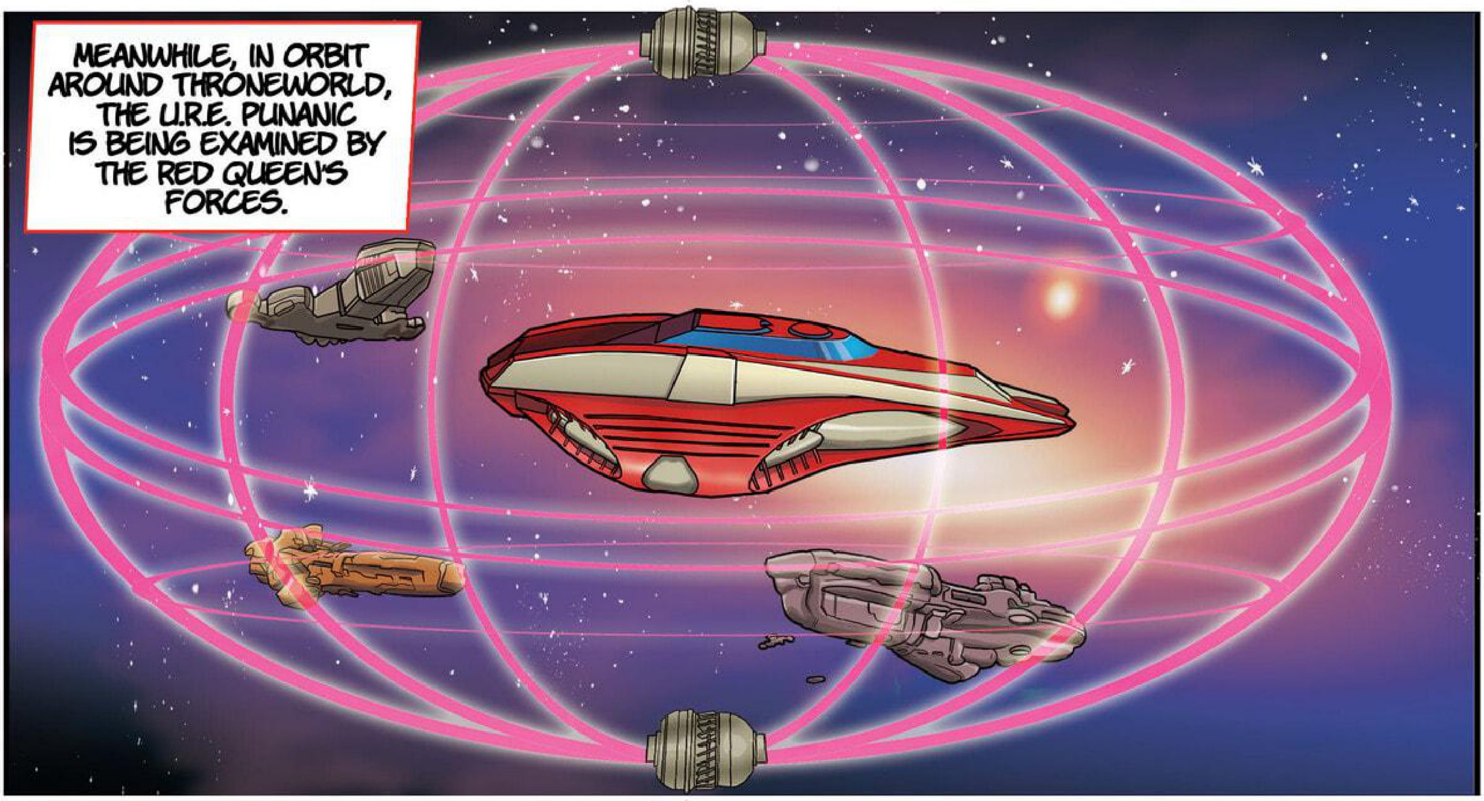

YOU BITCH! I'LL KILL YOU! I'LL KICK YOU LIKE I KICK MY FUC*ING DOG!
HOW TOTALLY, LIKE, DARE YOU COME HERE AND, LIKE, WANNA LIKE, TALK AND SH*T!
BOOOOOM!
WAIT, GIRL! JUST WAIT A HOT SECOND. SHEESH.
I HAVE A MESSAGE FROM ORDON!
OMG! YOU SO DON'T EVEN.
AND HE GAVE ME THIS. THERE'S A WHOLE BIG-ASS CASE IN MY CARGO HOLD.

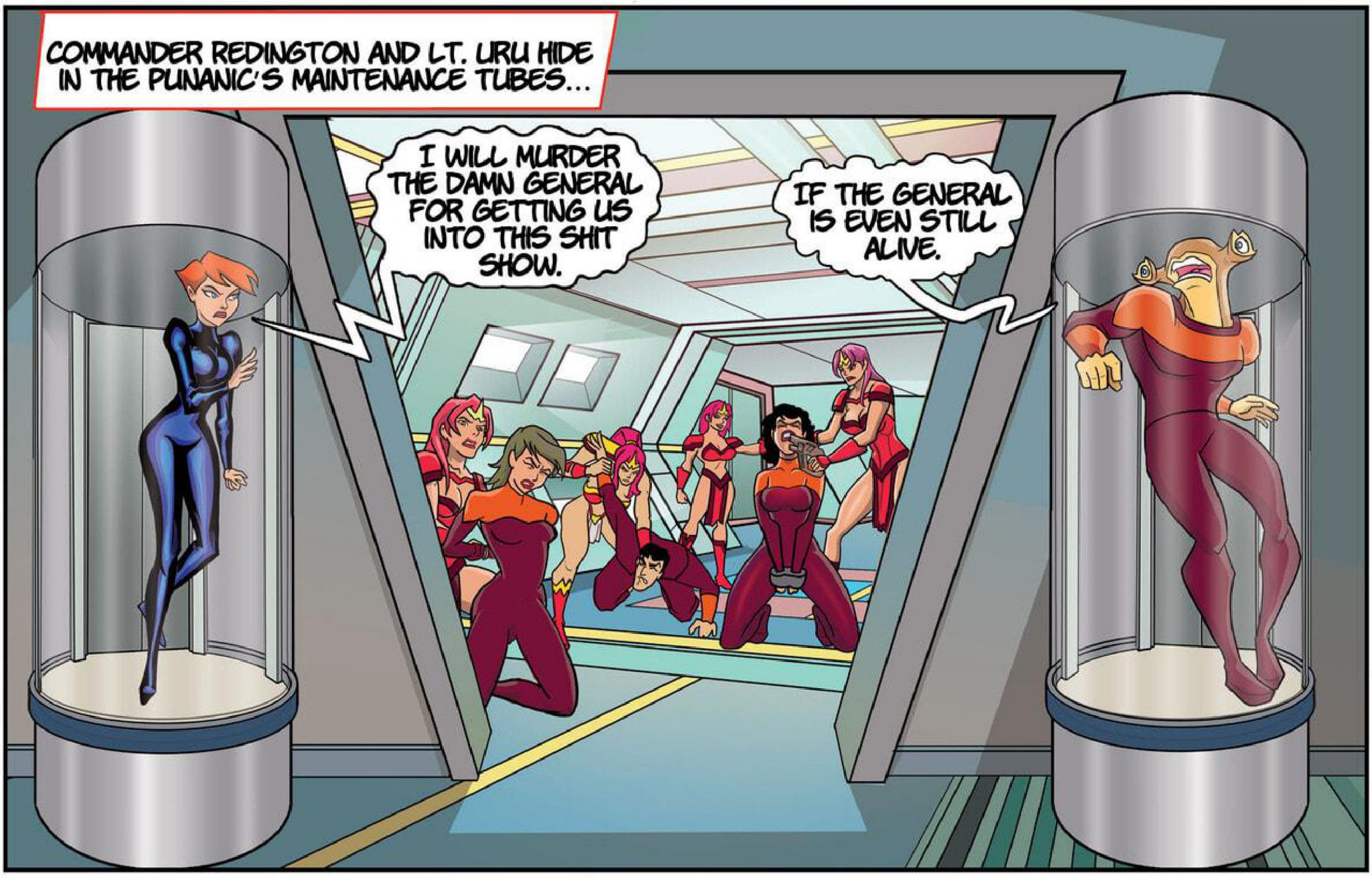

FINE! OKAY, BUT LIKE, JUST YOU, STORMY.
C'MON, CHICK, WE DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS, YOU CRAZY...
GGRRRRRLLLL!
HA. SHUT UP, YOU SNOWFLAKE. SENDING COORDINATES.
COME ALONE.
SNOWFLAKE?
SHE WILL TRY TO KILL YOU YOU CAN'T ACTUALLY GO DOWN THERE ALONE. IF I...
BOOP!
GRABBLELABBLELABBLE!
AT LEAST TAKE MUNCH!
EASY NOW, STINKBUTT.
YOU HEARD HER.
UNLESS YOU HAVE A BETTER PLAN...
PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

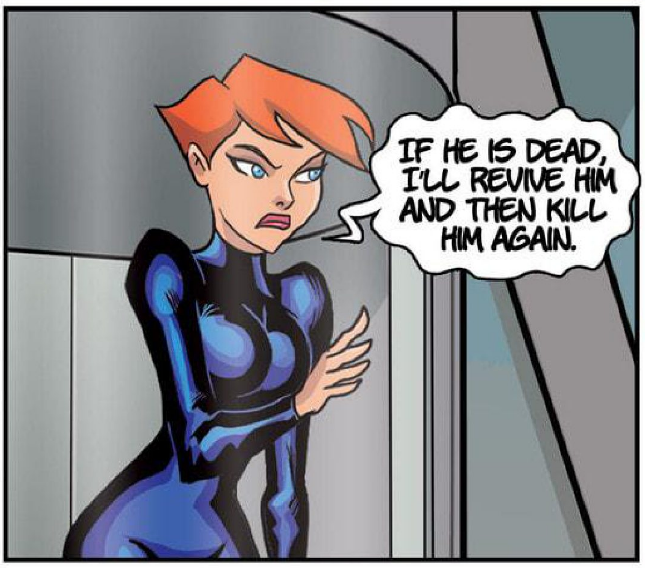

AILZ: GARBAGE PLANET AT THE EDGE OF KNOWN SPACE
HELLO? LAHREN!
YOOHOO... CRAZY ASS BITCH?
<HEEZE...WHEEZE!>
WHAT THE HELL?
URRGH!
STAY BACK!
PSHT!
RAH!
OH, NO...
BAYONSAY!

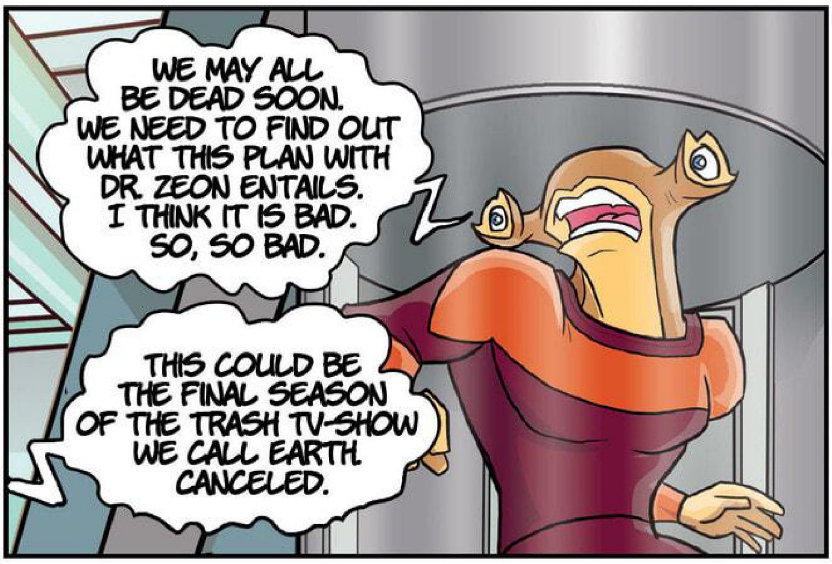

I REALLY SHOULD, LIKE, LET THEM TOTALLY KILL YOU, YOU NASTY PORN GARBAGE.
DO YOUR THANG, BUT KILL ME AND THAT'LL PISS OFF ORDON AND THEN, NO IMBICILIN. BUT IT IS WHAT IT IS.
DO YOU WHAT YA GOTTA DO.
YOU'RE LYING.
WELL, GUESS YOU'LL NEVER KNOW. BE SEEIN' YA, WHACK JOB.

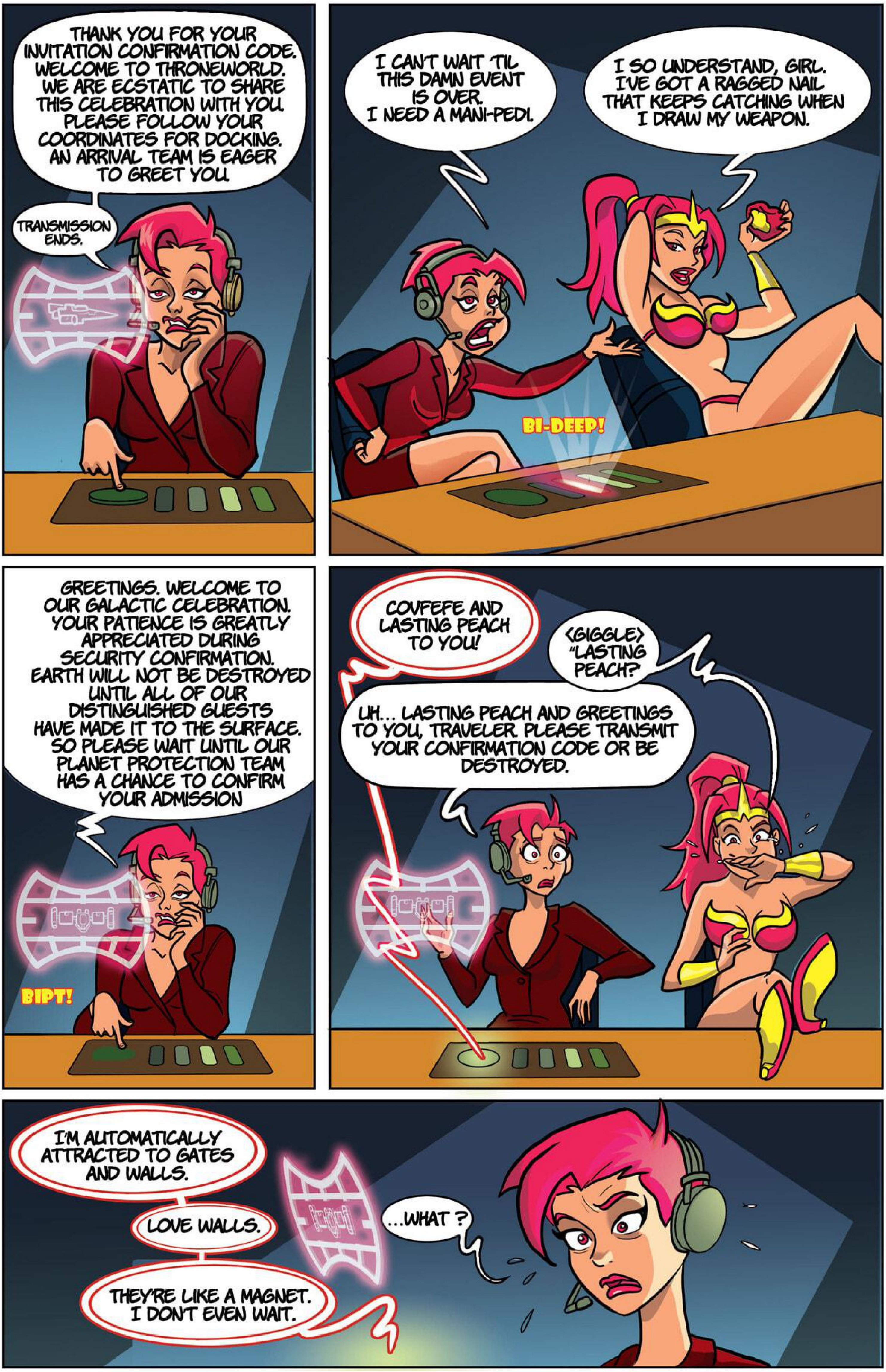

GIVE ME JUST, LIKE, A LITTLE TASTE. FOR PROOF.
FINE. ONE LITTLE HIT.
BUT TIME'S WASTING AND WE HAVE BUSINESS TO DISCUSS.
WAAAAAAAAAAAAOOOW! FFFFFFFFUUUUU....
OKAY. OKAY. OKAY.
WHAT DOES ORDON NEED ME TO DO?

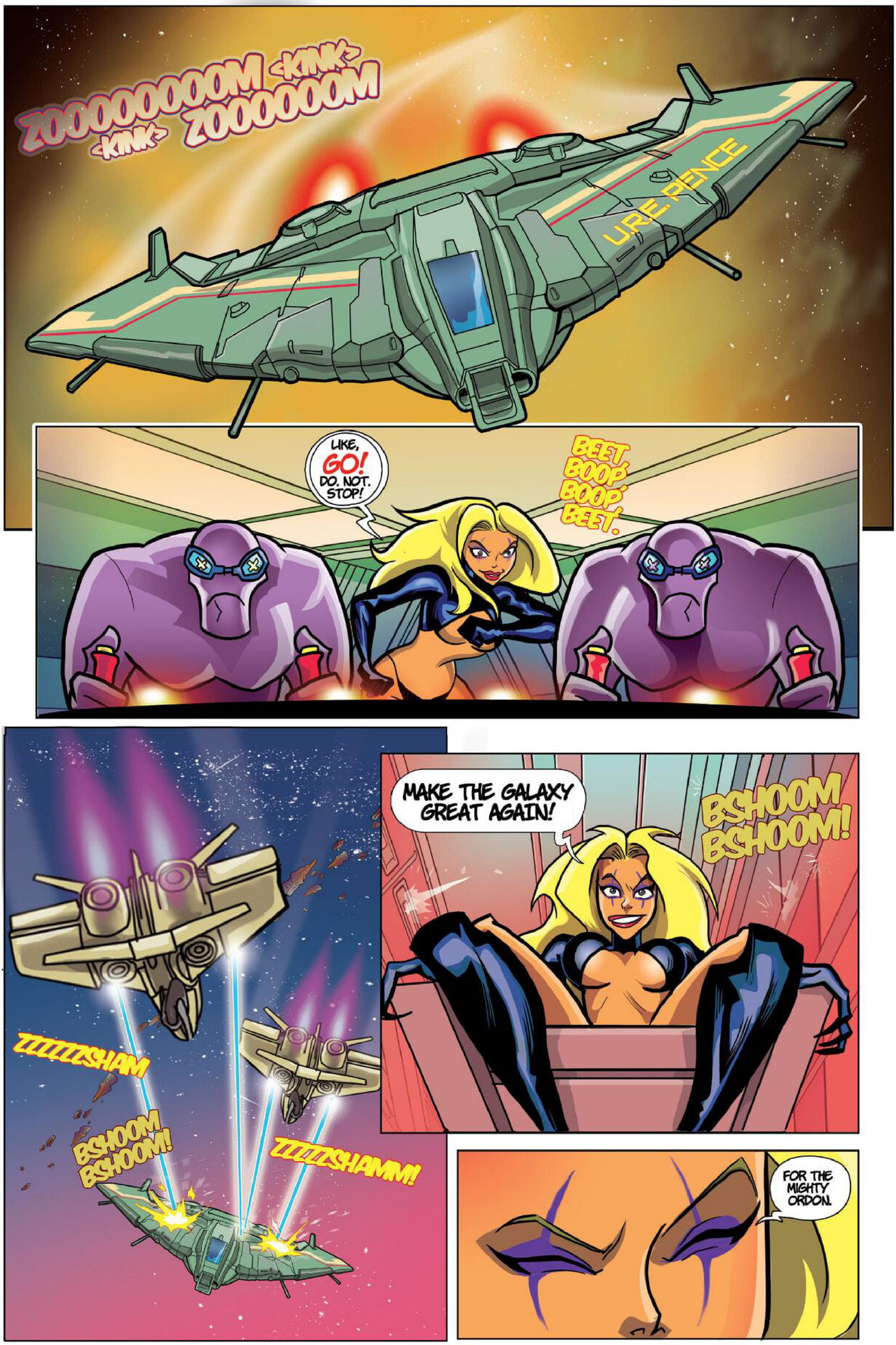

MEANWHILE, IN ORBIT AROUND THRONEWORLD, THE U.R.E. PUNANIC IS BEING EXAMINED BY THE RED QUEEN'S FORCES.

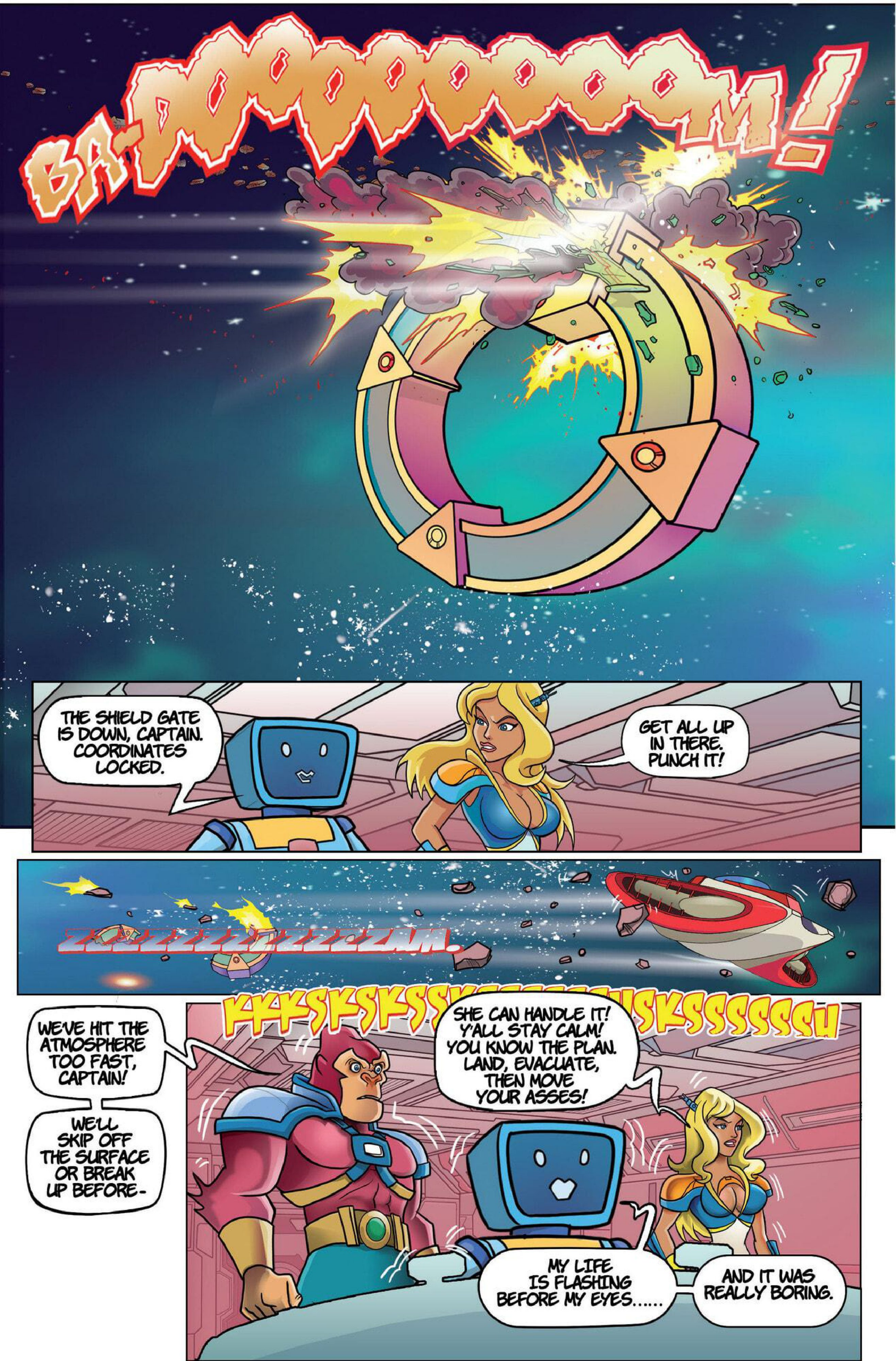

COMMANDER REDINGTON AND LT. URU HIDE IN THE PUNANIC'S MAINTENANCE TUBES...
I WILL MURDER THE DAMN GENERAL FOR GETTING US INTO THIS SHIT SHOW.
IF THE GENERAL IS EVEN STILL ALIVE.

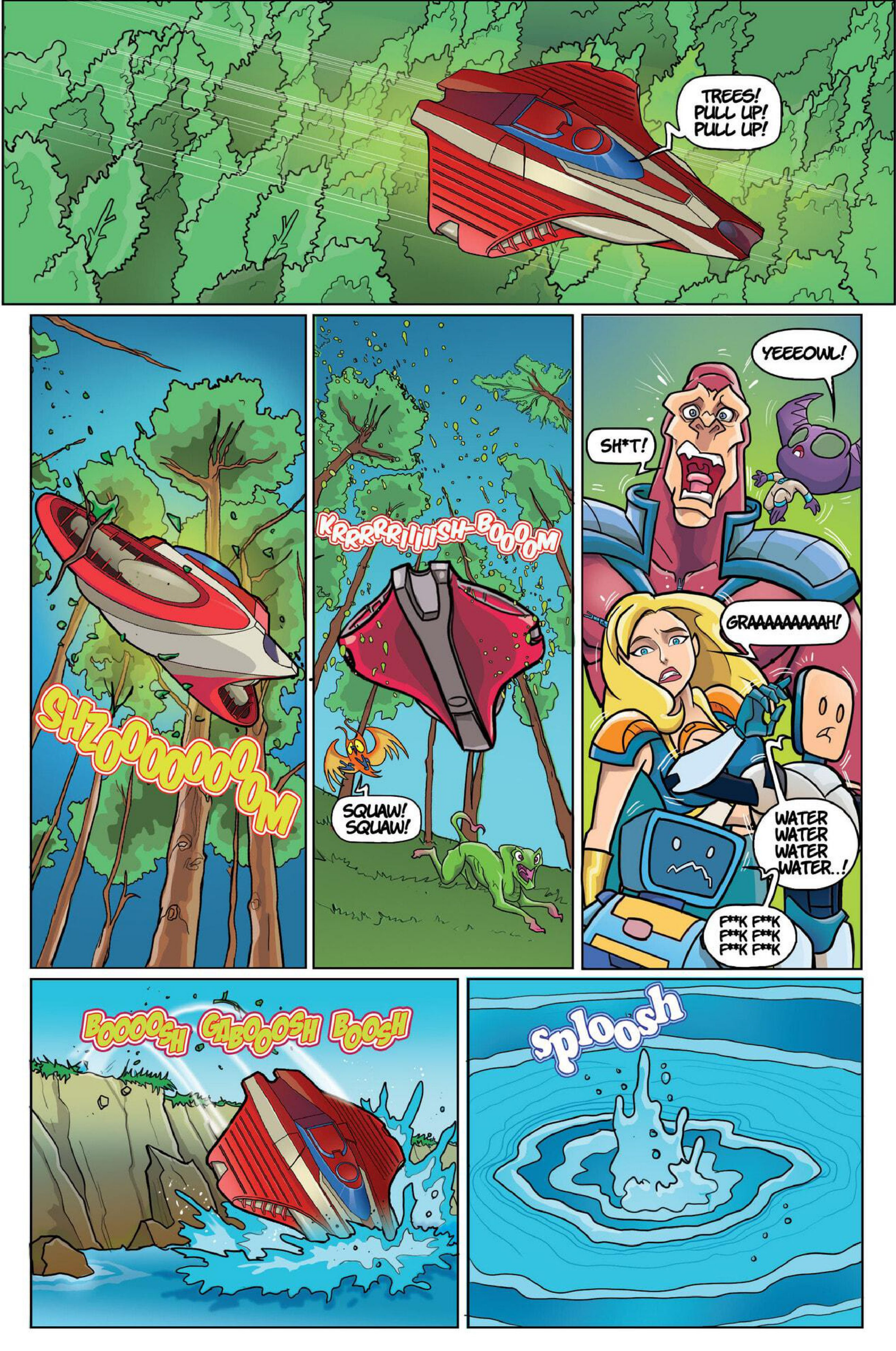

IF HE IS DEAD, I'LL REVIVE HIM AND THEN KILL HIM AGAIN.

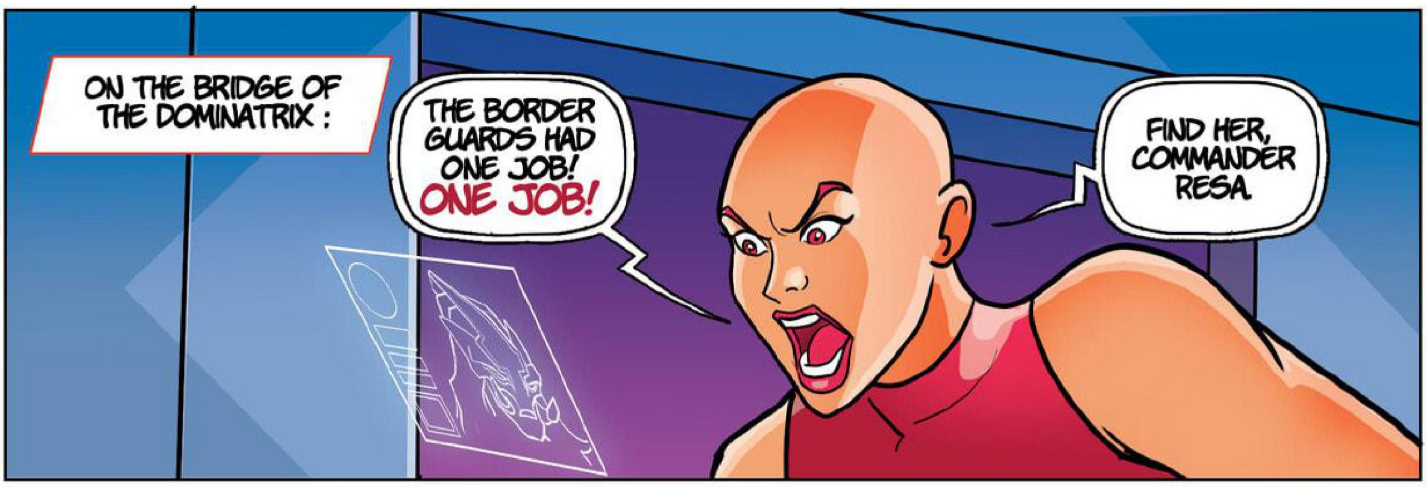

WE MAY ALL BE DEAD SOON. WE NEED TO FIND OUT WHAT THIS PLAN WITH DR. ZEON ENTAILS. I THINK IT IS BAD. SO, SO BAD.
THIS COULD BE THE FINAL SEASON OF THE TRASH TV-SHOW WE CALL EARTH. CANCELED.

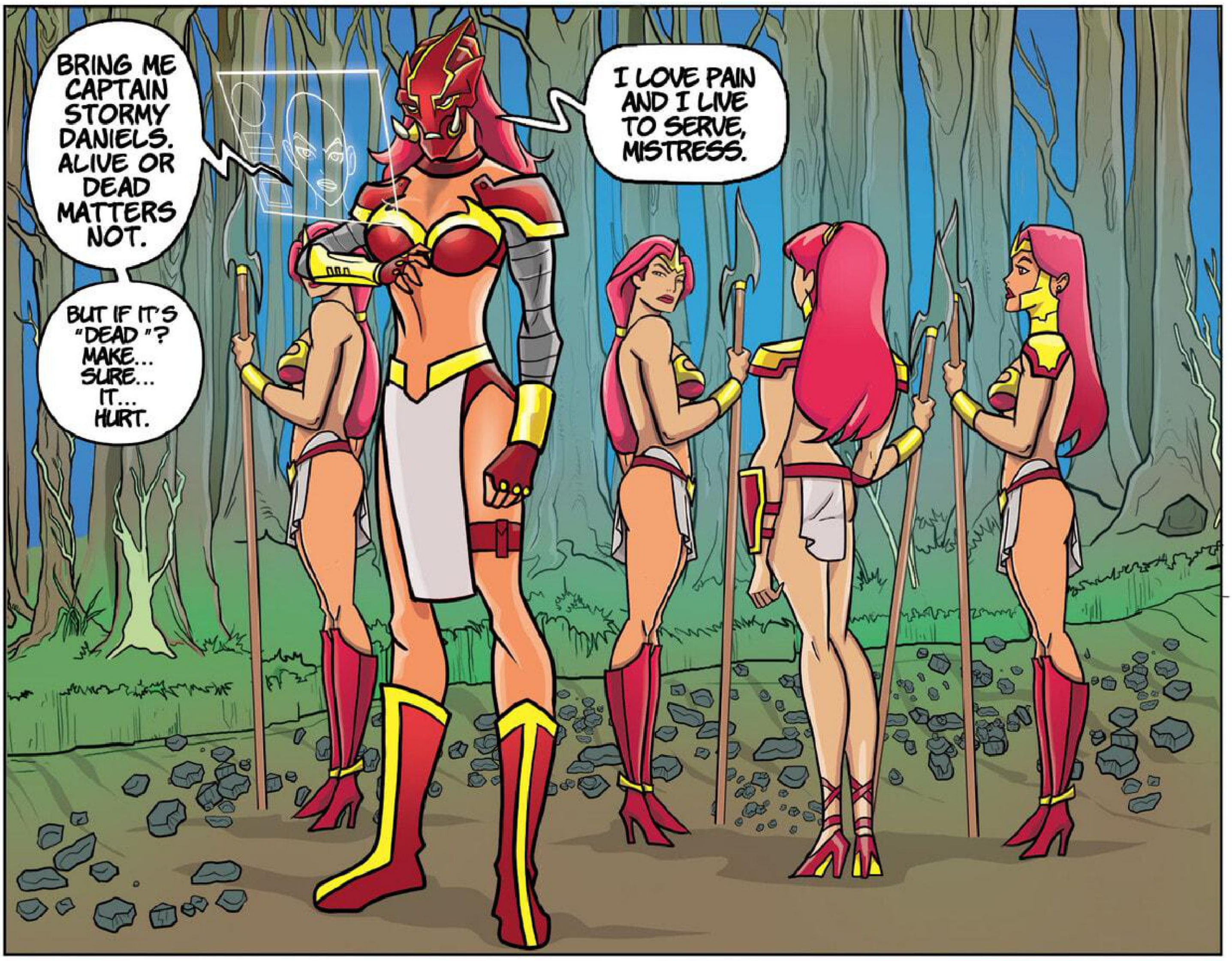

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVITATION CONFIRMATION CODE. WELCOME TO THRONEWORLD. WE ARE ECSTATIC TO SHARE THIS CELEBRATION WITH YOU. PLEASE FOLLOW YOUR COORDINATES FOR DOCKING. AN ARRIVAL TEAM IS EAGER TO GREET YOU.
TRANSMISSION ENDS.
I CAN'T WAIT 'TIL THIS DAMN EVENT IS OVER. I NEED A MANI-PEDI.
I SO UNDERSTAND, GIRL. I'VE GOT A RAGGED NAIL THAT KEEPS CATCHING WHEN I DRAW MY WEAPON.
BI-DEEP!
GREETINGS. WELCOME TO OUR GALACTIC CELEBRATION. YOUR PATIENCE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED DURING SECURITY CONFIRMATION. EARTH WILL NOT BE DESTROYED UNTIL ALL OF OUR DISTINGUISHED GUESTS HAVE MADE IT TO THE SURFACE. SO PLEASE WAIT UNTIL OUR PLANET PROTECTION TEAM HAS A CHANCE TO CONFIRM YOUR ADMISSION
BIPT!
COVFEFE AND LASTING PEACH TO YOU!
<GIGGLE> "LASTING PEACH?"
UH... LASTING PEACH AND GREETINGS TO YOU, TRAVELER. PLEASE TRANSMIT YOUR CONFIRMATION CODE OR BE DESTROYED.
I'M AUTOMATICALLY ATTRACTED TO GATES AND WALLS.
LOVE WALLS.
THEY'RE LIKE A MAGNET. I DON'T EVEN WAIT.
...WHAT ?

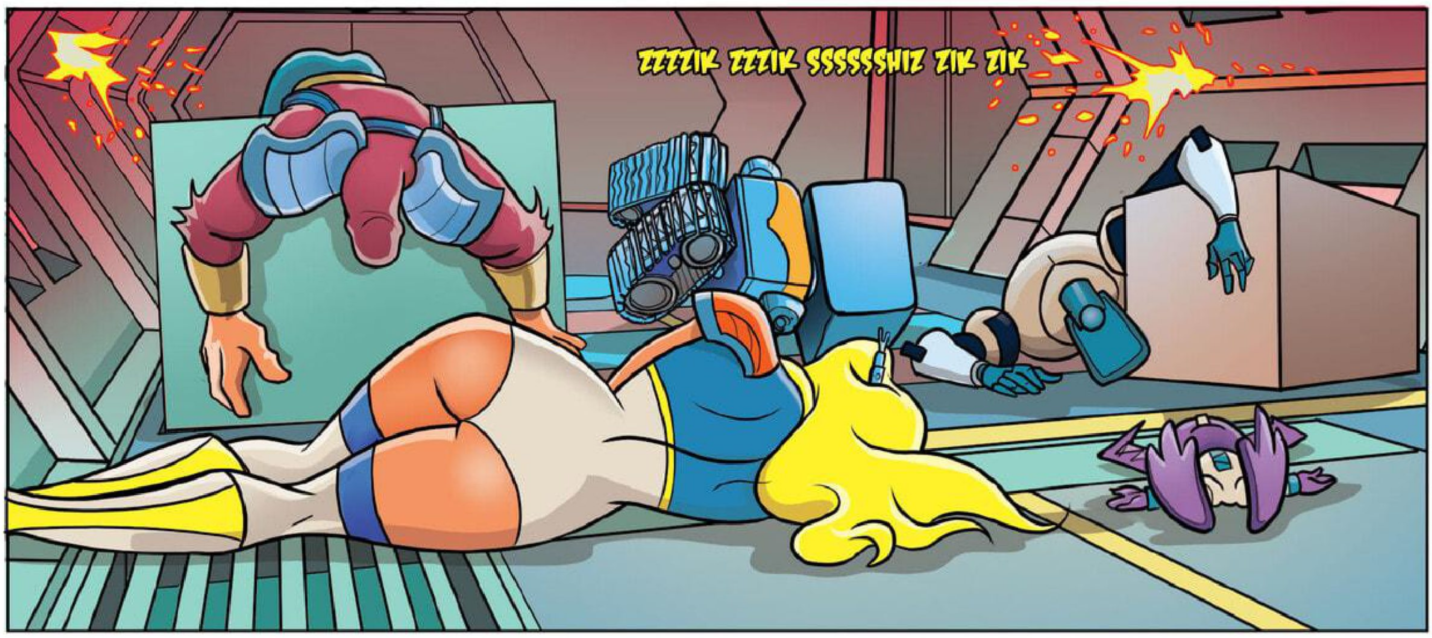

ZOOOOOOOOM <KINK>
<KINK> ZOOOOOOM
U.R.E. PENCE
LIKE, GO! DO. NOT. STOP!
BEET, BOOP, BOOP, BEET.
ZZZZZZSHAM
BSHOOM BSHOOM!
ZZZZZSHAMM!
MAKE THE GALAXY GREAT AGAIN!
BSHOOM BSHOOM!
FOR THE MIGHTY ORDON.

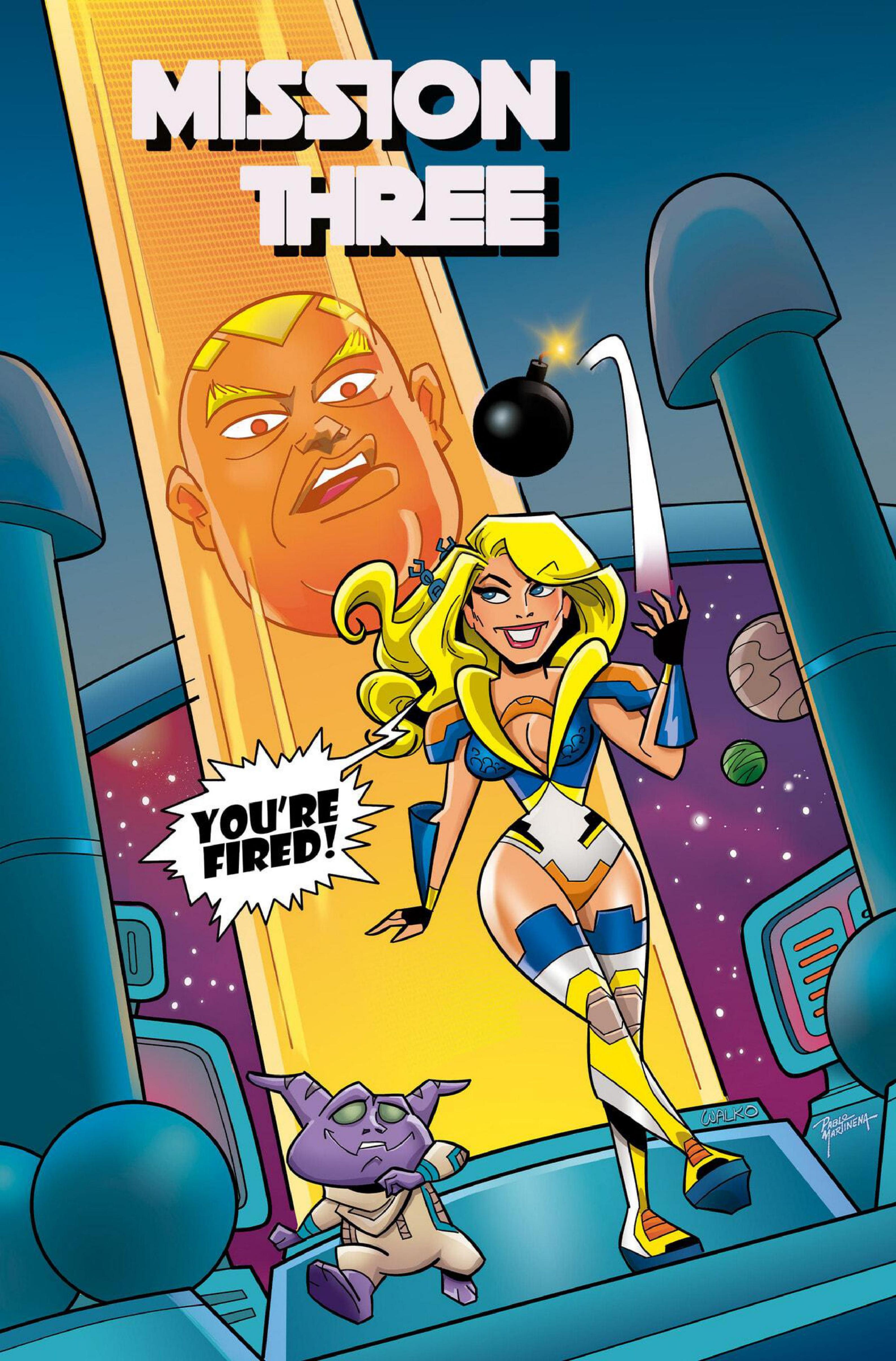

BA-DOOOOOOOM!
THE SHIELD GATE IS DOWN, CAPTAIN. COORDINATES LOCKED.
GET ALL UP IN THERE. PUNCH IT!
ZZZZZZZZZZZZAM.
KKKSKSKSSK
SKSSSSSSCH
WE'VE HIT THE ATMOSPHERE TOO FAST, CAPTAIN!
WE'LL SKIP OFF THE SURFACE OR BREAK UP BEFORE-
SHE CAN HANDLE IT! Y'ALL STAY CALM! YOU KNOW THE PLAN. LAND, EVACUATE, THEN MOVE YOUR ASSES!
MY LIFE IS FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES......
AND IT WAS REALLY BORING.

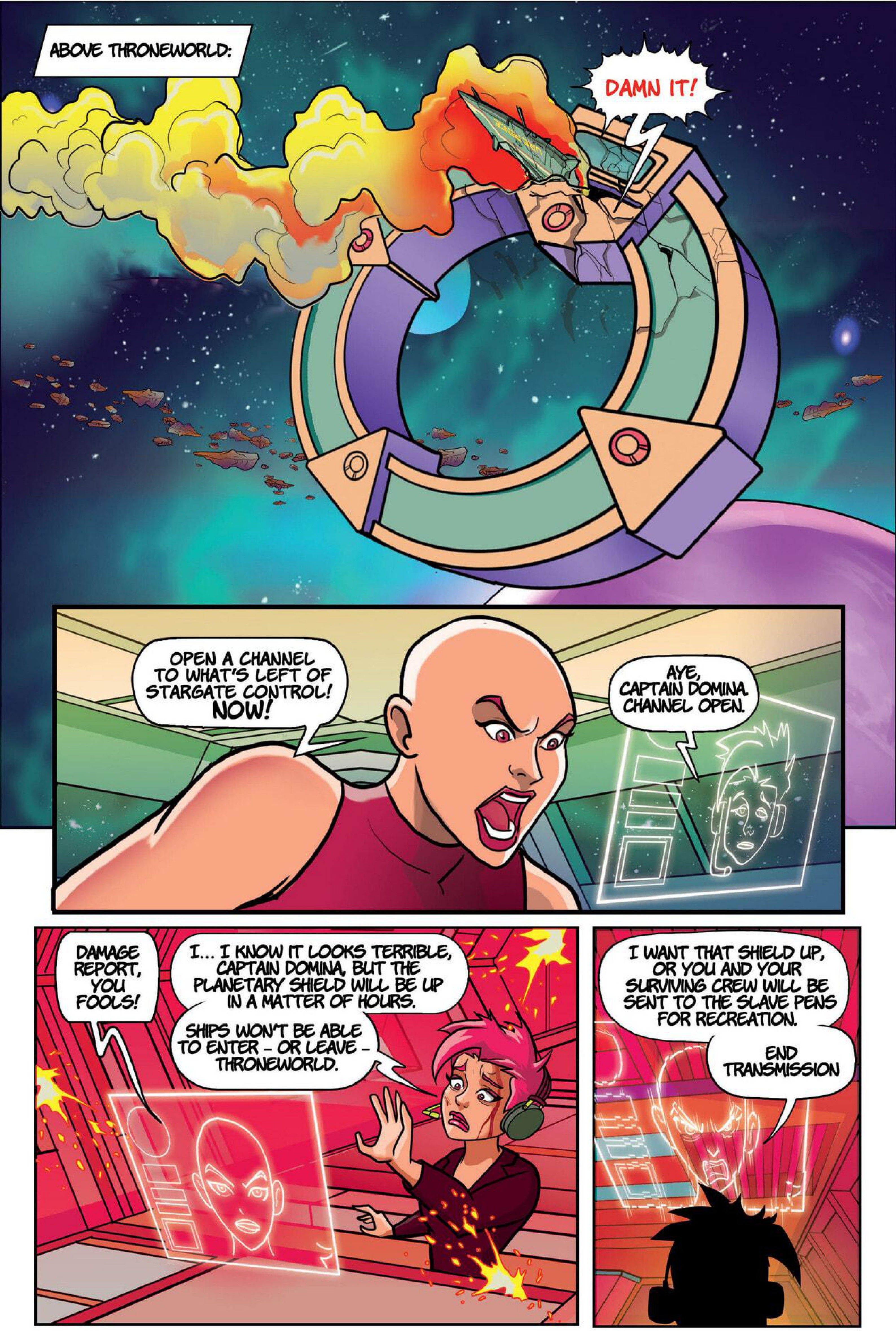

TREES! PULL UP! PULL UP!
SHZOOOOOOOOOM
KRRRRRIIIIISH-BOOOOM
SQUAW! SQUAW!
YEEEOWL!
SH*T!
GRAAAAAAAAAH!
WATER WATER WATER WATER..!
F**K F**K F**K F**K F**K F**K
BOOOOOSH GABOOOOSH BOOSH
sploosh

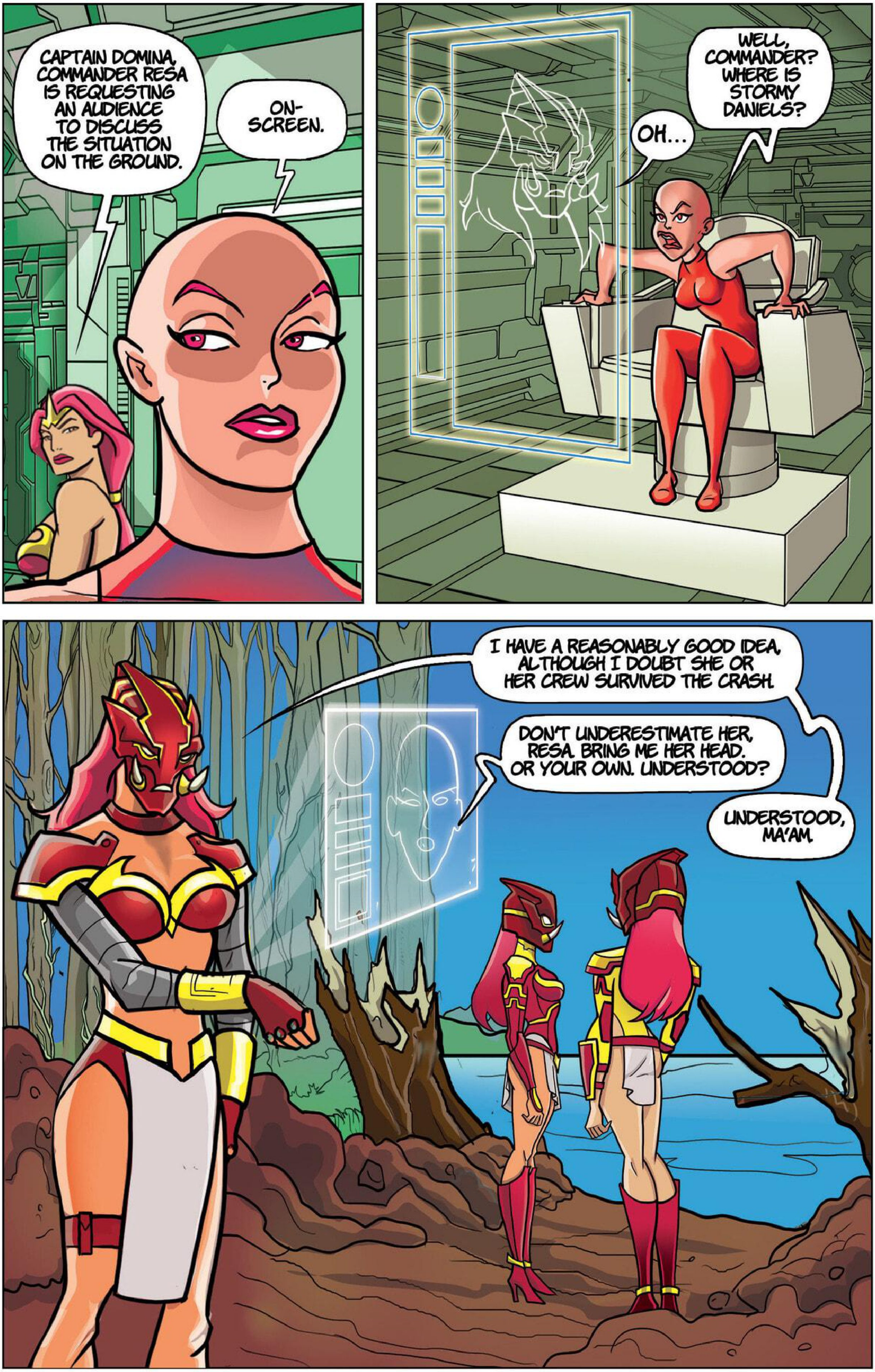

ON THE BRIDGE OF THE DOMINATRIX :
THE BORDER GUARDS HAD ONE JOB! ONE JOB!
FIND HER, COMMANDER RESA.

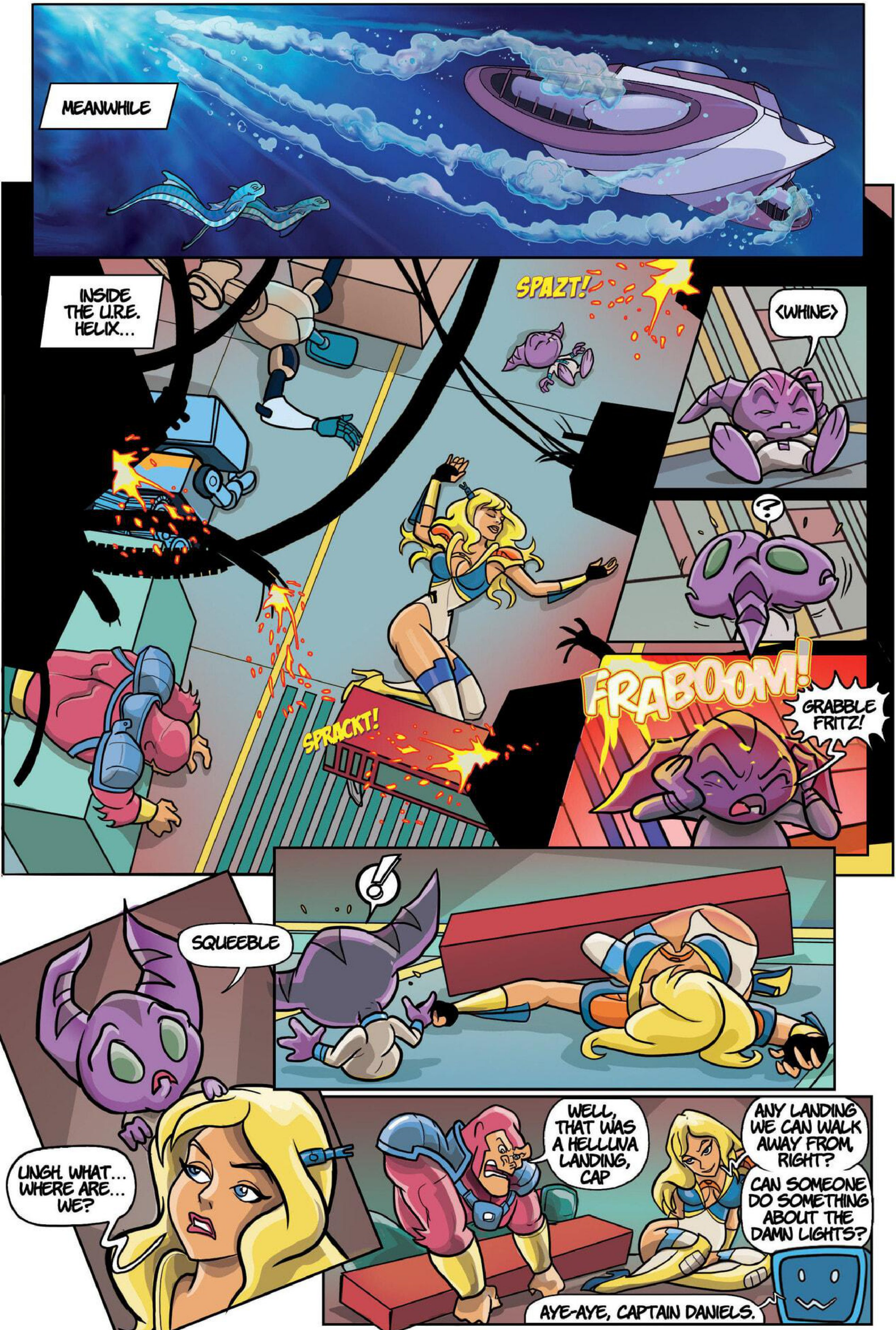

BRING ME CAPTAIN STORMY DANIELS. ALIVE OR DEAD MATTERS NOT.
BUT IF IT'S "DEAD"? MAKE... SURE... IT... HURT.
I LOVE PAIN AND I LIVE TO SERVE, MISTRESS.

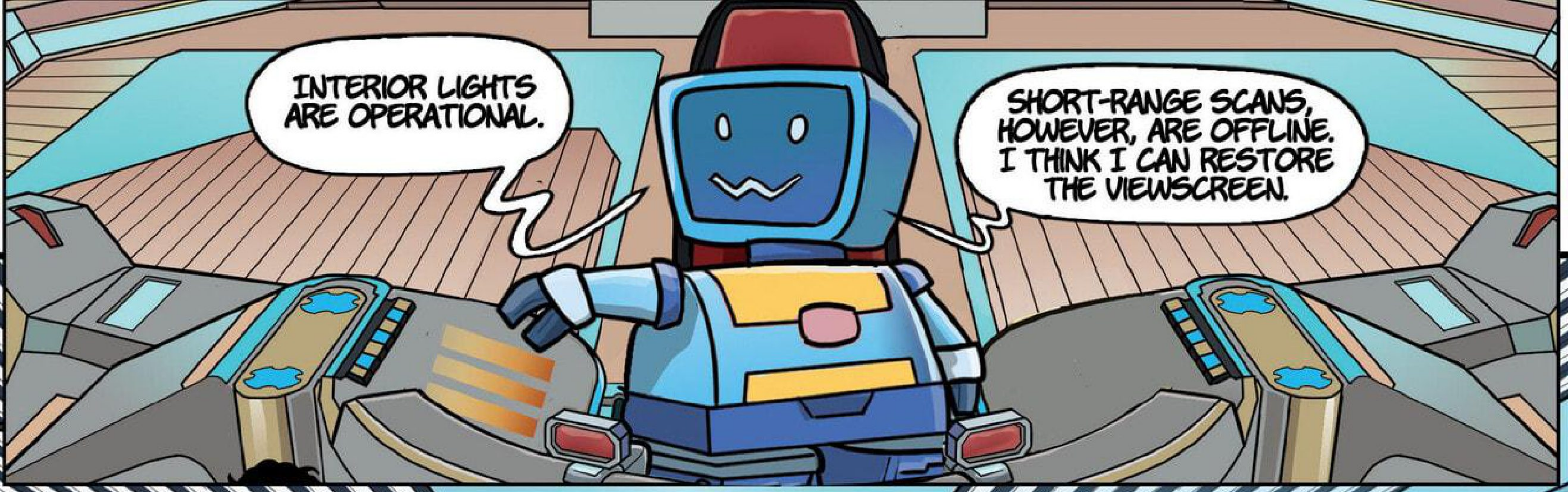

ZZZZIK ZZZIK SSSSSSHIZ ZIK ZIK

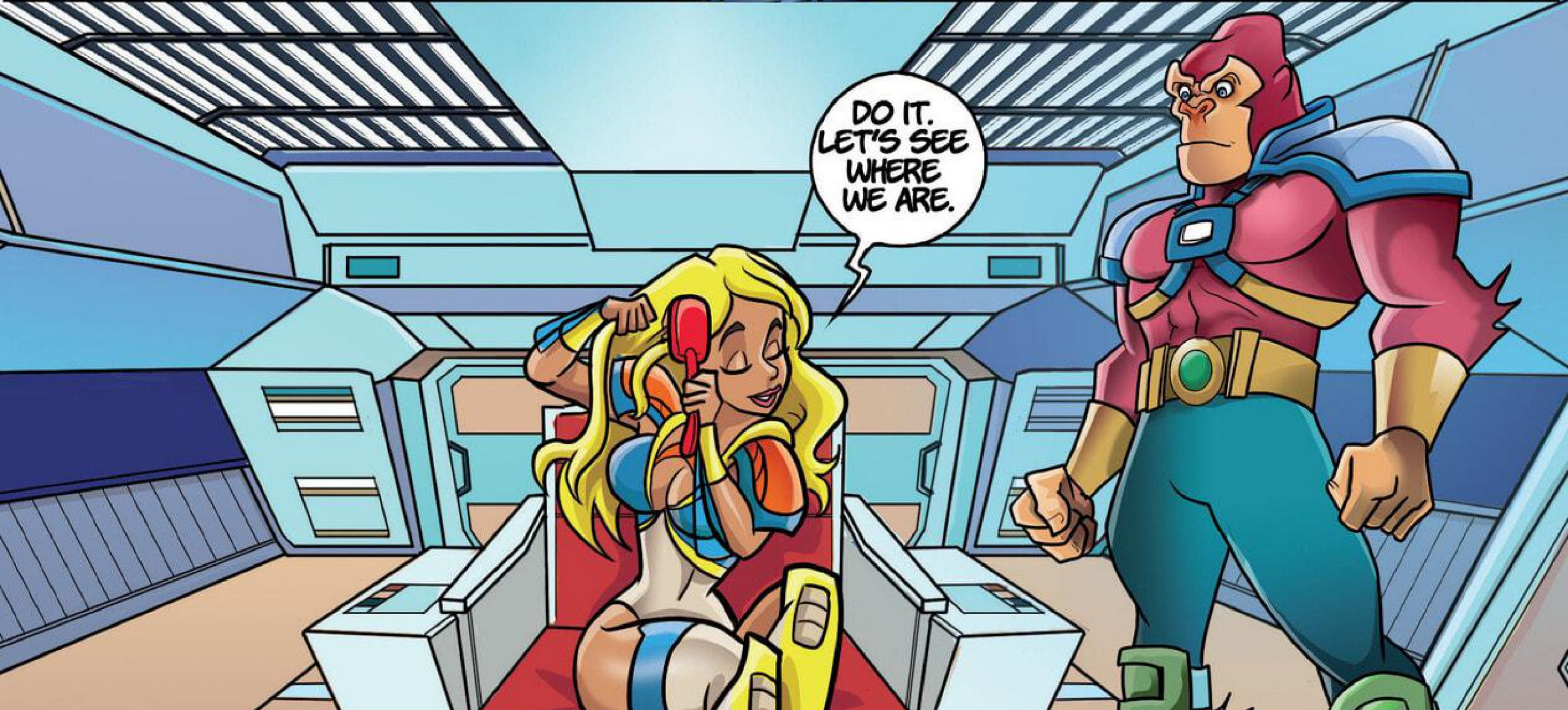

MISSION THREE
YOU'RE FIRED!
WALKO
PABLO MARTINENA

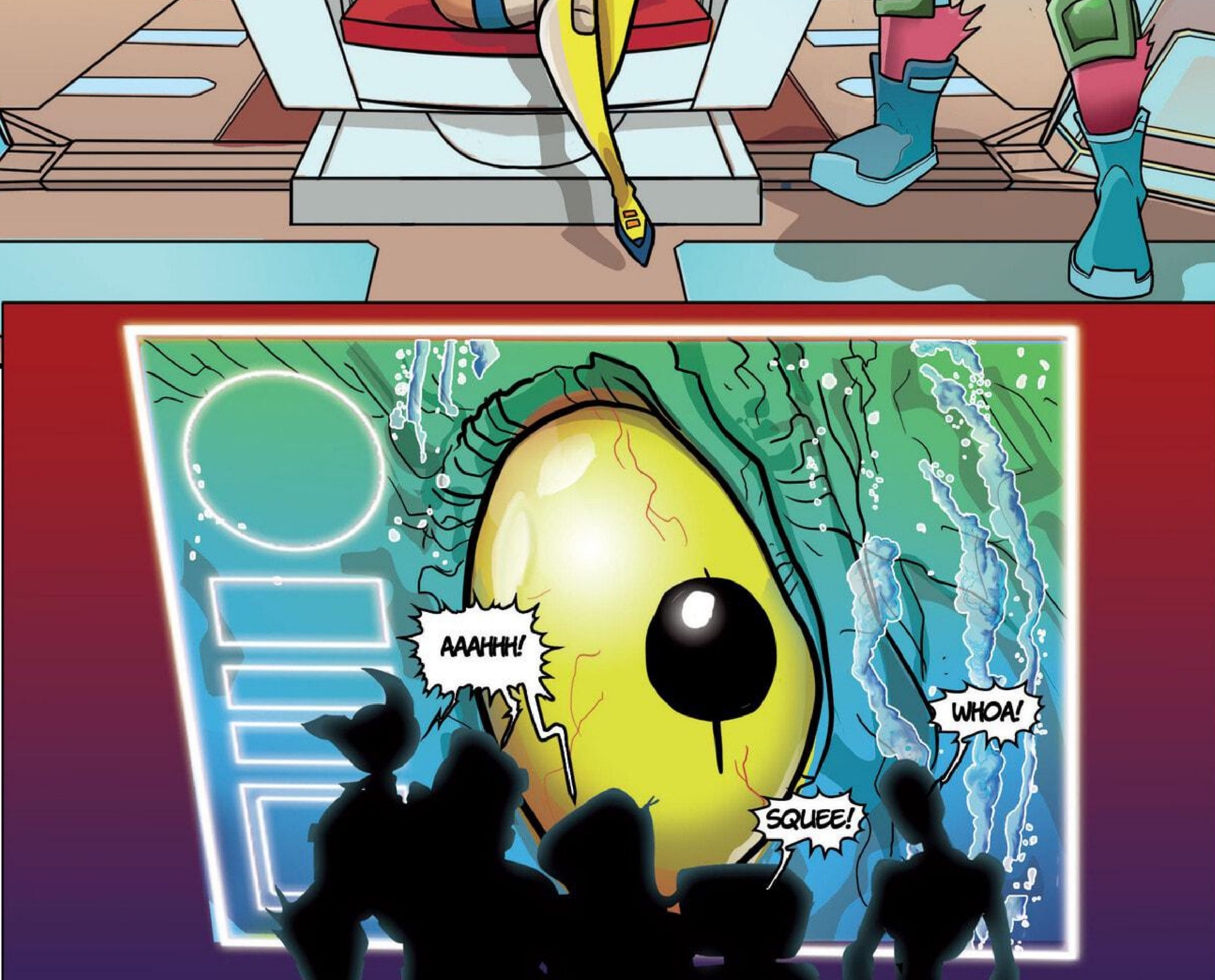

ABOVE THRONEWORLD:
DAMN IT!
OPEN A CHANNEL TO WHAT'S LEFT OF STARGATE CONTROL! NOW!
AYE, CAPTAIN DOMINA. CHANNEL OPEN.
DAMAGE REPORT, YOU FOOLS!
I... I KNOW IT LOOKS TERRIBLE, CAPTAIN DOMINA, BUT THE PLANETARY SHIELD WILL BE UP IN A MATTER OF HOURS.
SHIPS WON'T BE ABLE TO ENTER – OR LEAVE – THRONEWORLD.
I WANT THAT SHIELD UP, OR YOU AND YOUR SURVIVING CREW WILL BE SENT TO THE SLAVE PENS FOR RECREATION.
END TRANSMISSION

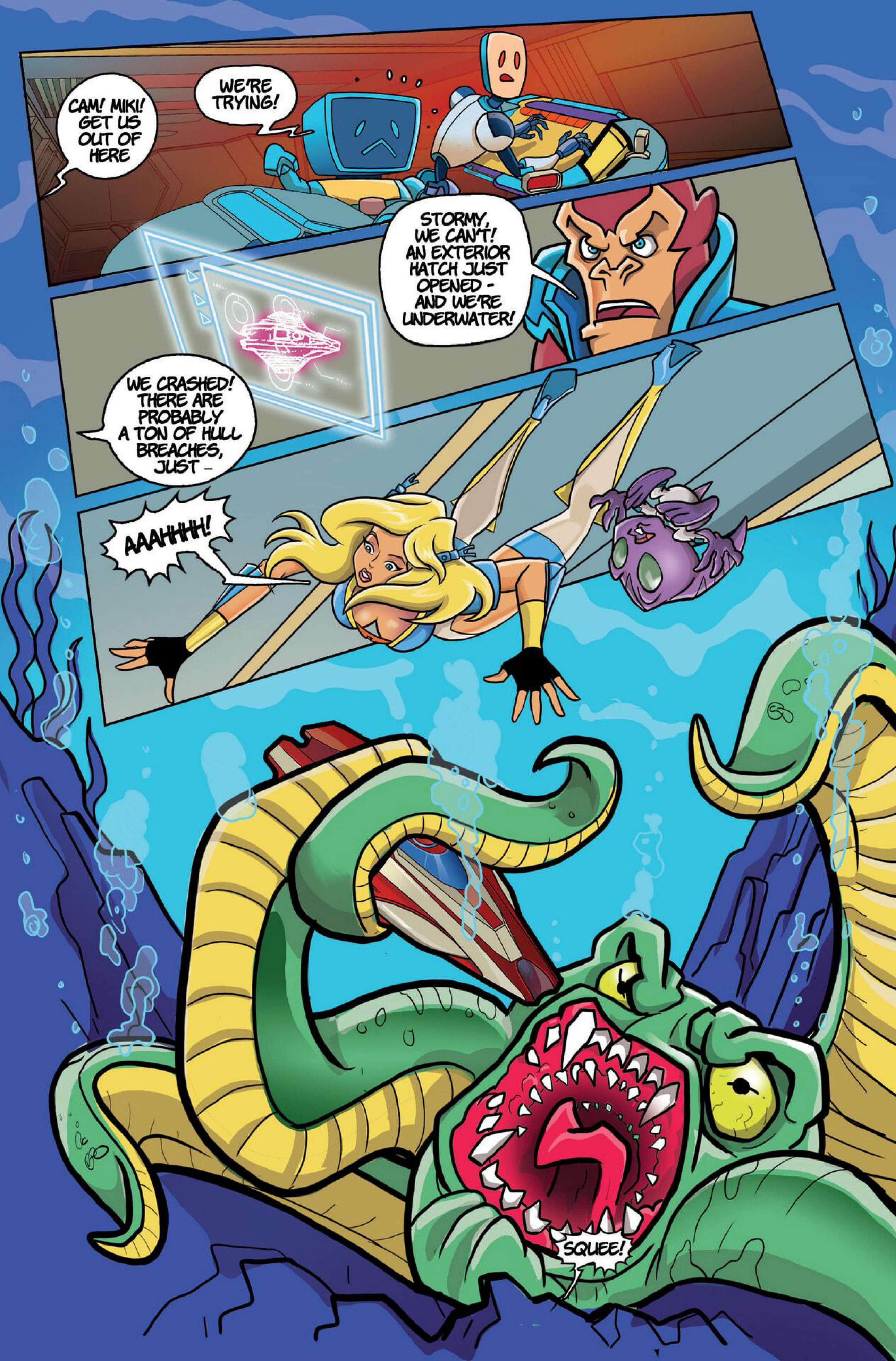

CAPTAIN DOMINA, COMMANDER RESA IS REQUESTING AN AUDIENCE TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND.
ON-SCREEN.
WELL, COMMANDER? WHERE IS STORMY DANIELS?
OH...
I HAVE A REASONABLY GOOD IDEA, ALTHOUGH I DOUBT SHE OR HER CREW SURVIVED THE CRASH.
DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HER, RESA. BRING ME HER HEAD. OR YOUR OWN. UNDERSTOOD?
UNDERSTOOD, MA'AM.

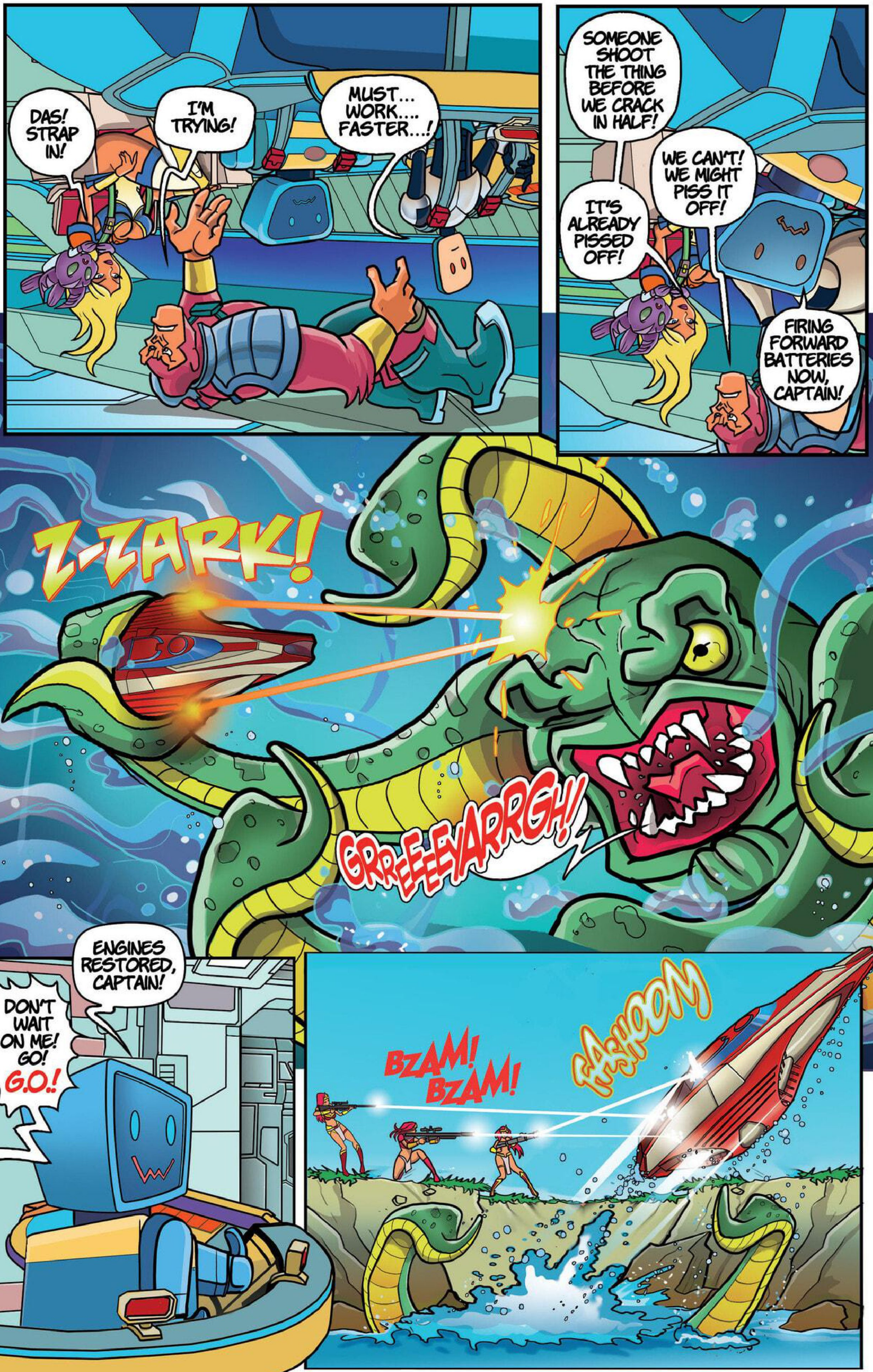

MEANWHILE
INSIDE THE U.R.E. HELIX...
SPAZT!
<WHINE>
?
SPRACKT!
FRABOOM!
GRABBLE FRITZ!
SQUEEBLE
!
UNGH. WHAT... WHERE ARE... WE?
WELL, THAT WAS A HELLUVA LANDING, CAP
ANY LANDING WE CAN WALK AWAY FROM, RIGHT?
CAN SOMEONE DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE DAMN LIGHTS?
AYE-AYE, CAPTAIN DANIELS.

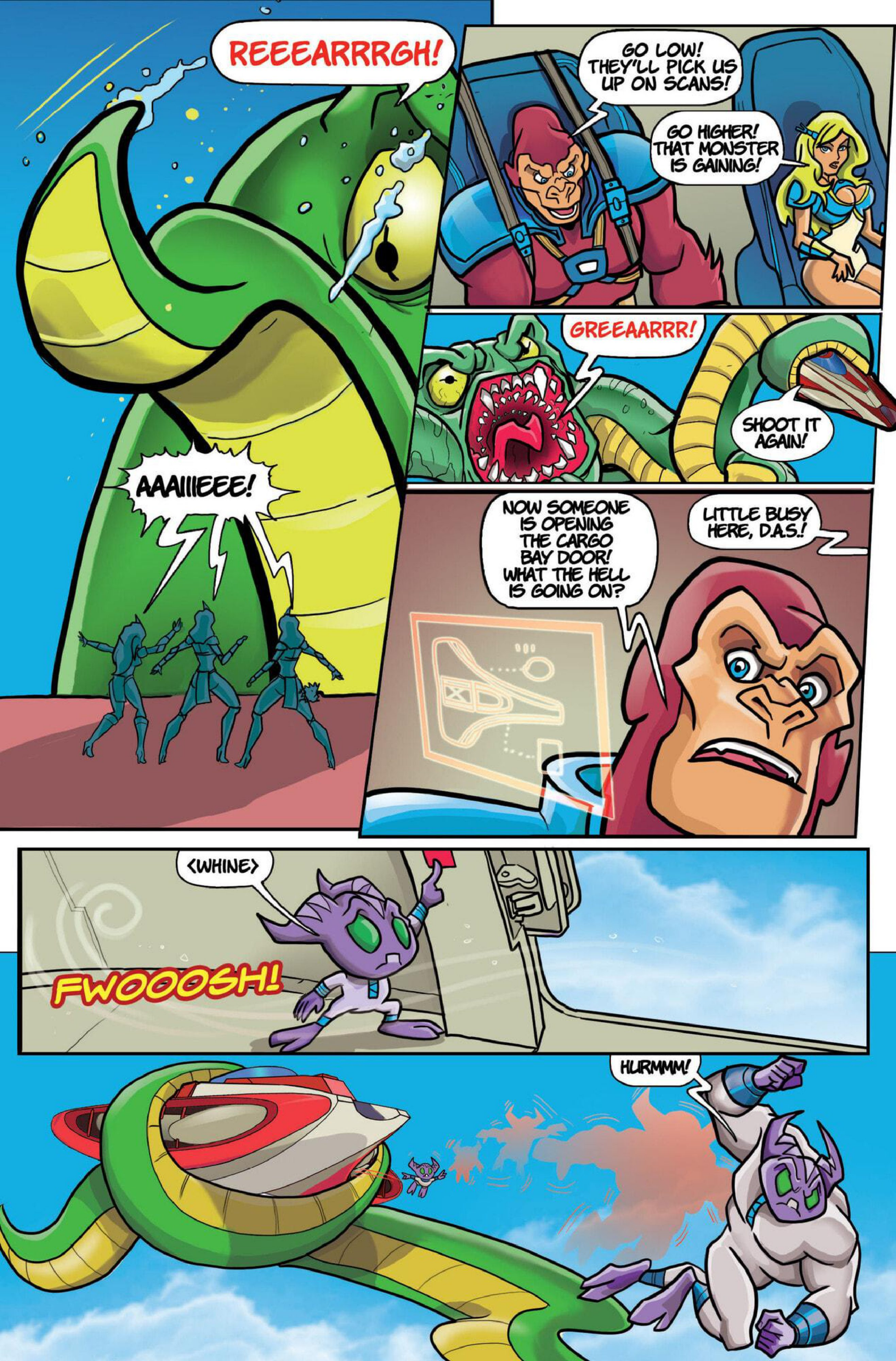

INTERIOR LIGHTS ARE OPERATIONAL.
SHORT-RANGE SCANS, HOWEVER, ARE OFFLINE. I THINK I CAN RESTORE THE VIEWSCREEN.

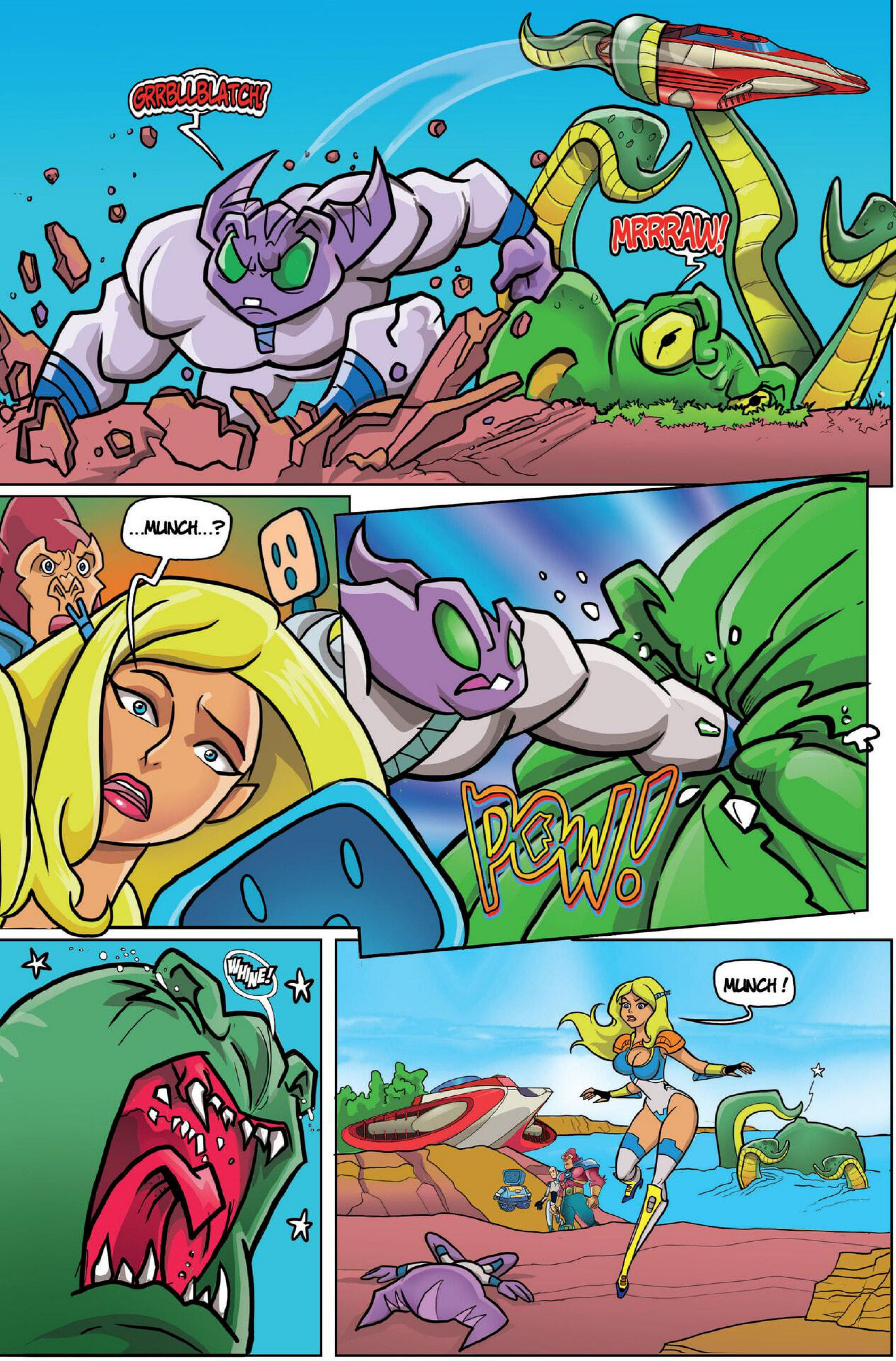

DO IT. LET'S SEE WHERE WE ARE.

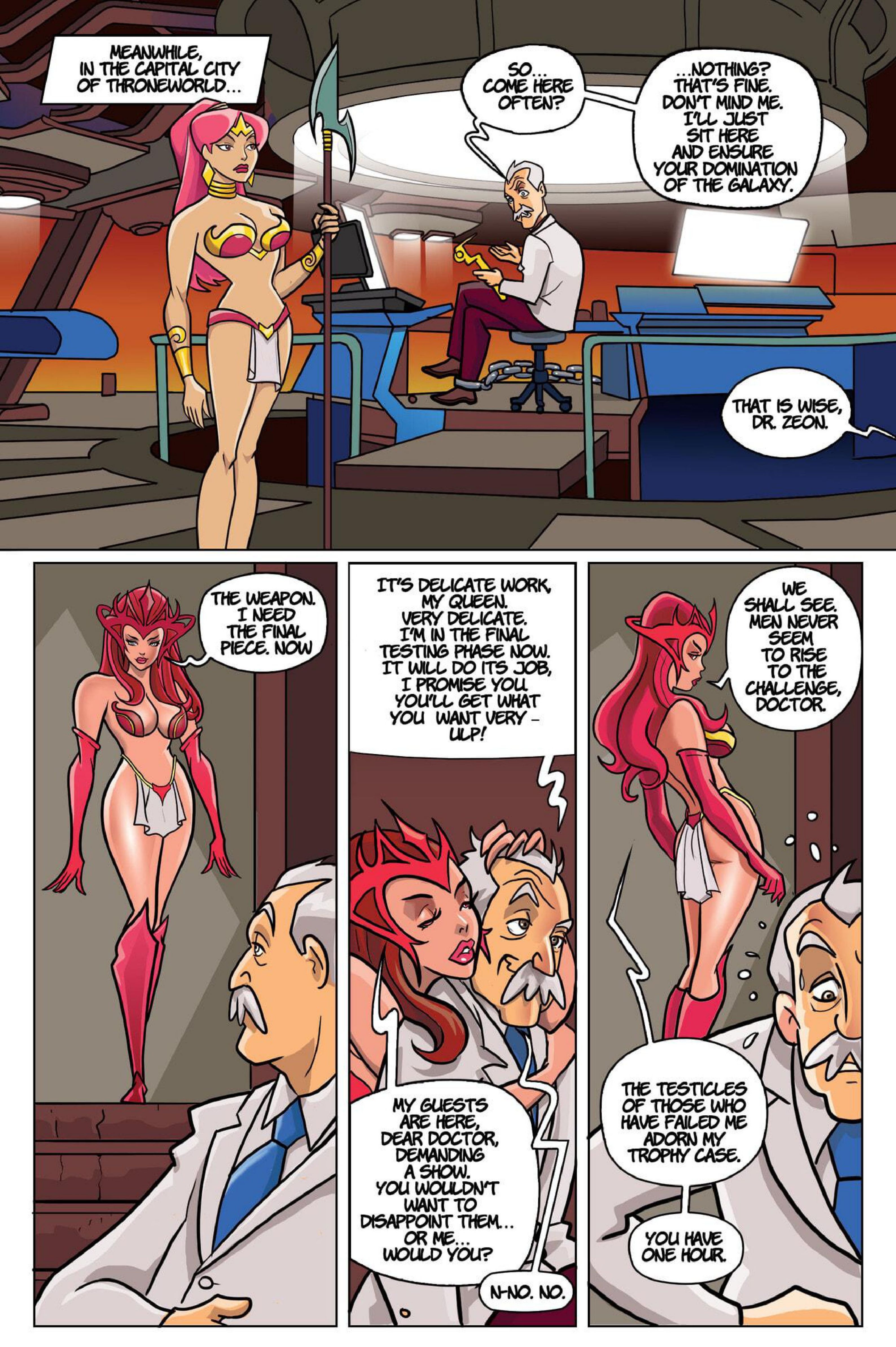

AAAHHH!
WHOA!
SQUEE!

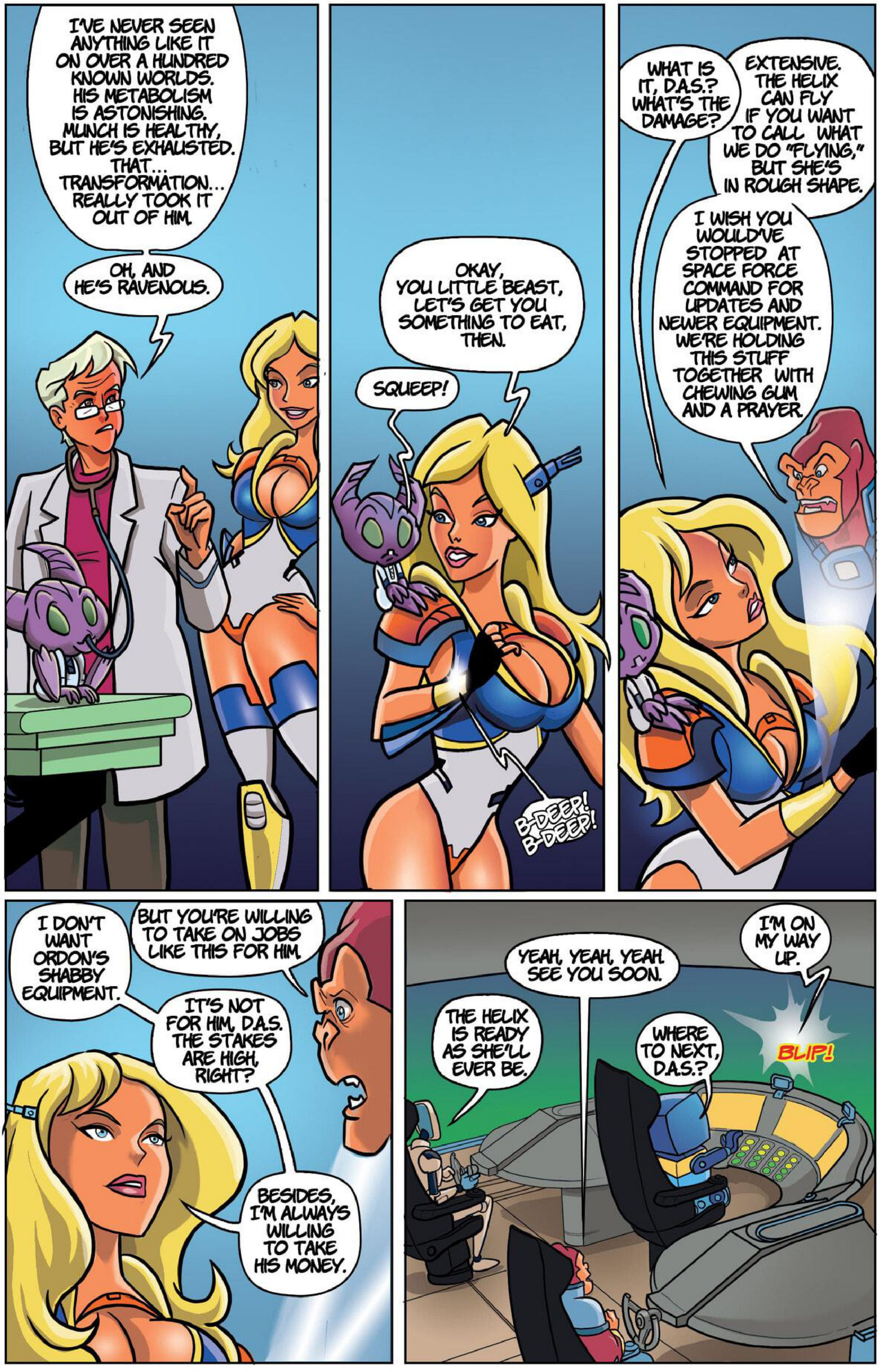

CAM! MIKI! GET US OUT OF HERE
WE'RE TRYING!
STORMY, WE CAN'T! AN EXTERIOR HATCH JUST OPENED - AND WE'RE UNDERWATER!
WE CRASHED! THERE ARE PROBABLY A TON OF HULL BREACHES, JUST –
AAAHHHH!
SQUEE!

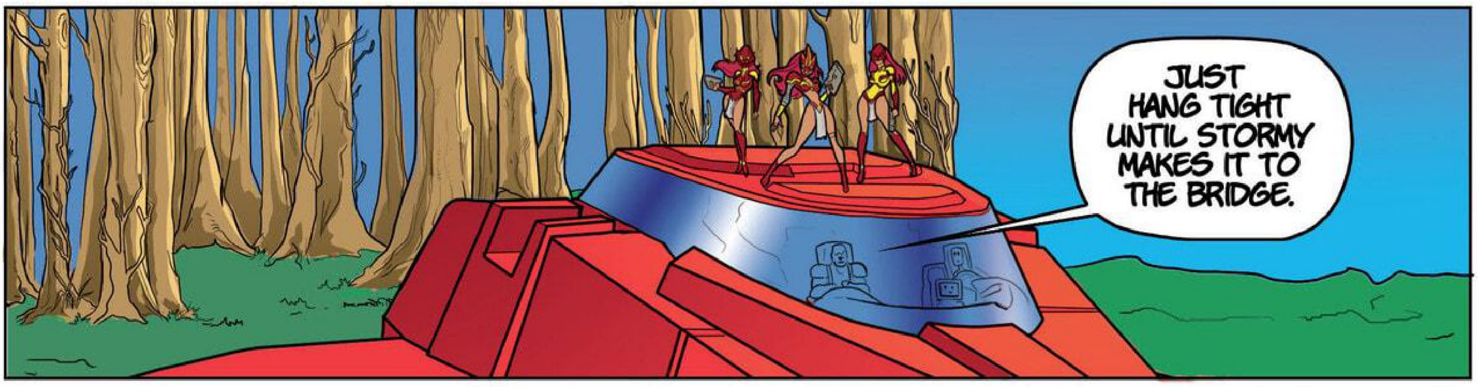

DAS! STRAP IN!
I'M TRYING!
MUST... WORK.... FASTER...!
SOMEONE SHOOT THE THING BEFORE WE CRACK IN HALF!
WE CAN'T! WE MIGHT PISS IT OFF!
IT'S ALREADY PISSED OFF!
FIRING FORWARD BATTERIES NOW, CAPTAIN!
Z-ZARK!
GRREEEEEYARRGH!
ENGINES RESTORED, CAPTAIN!
DON'T WAIT ON ME! GO! G.O.!
BZAM! BZAM!
FAHOOM

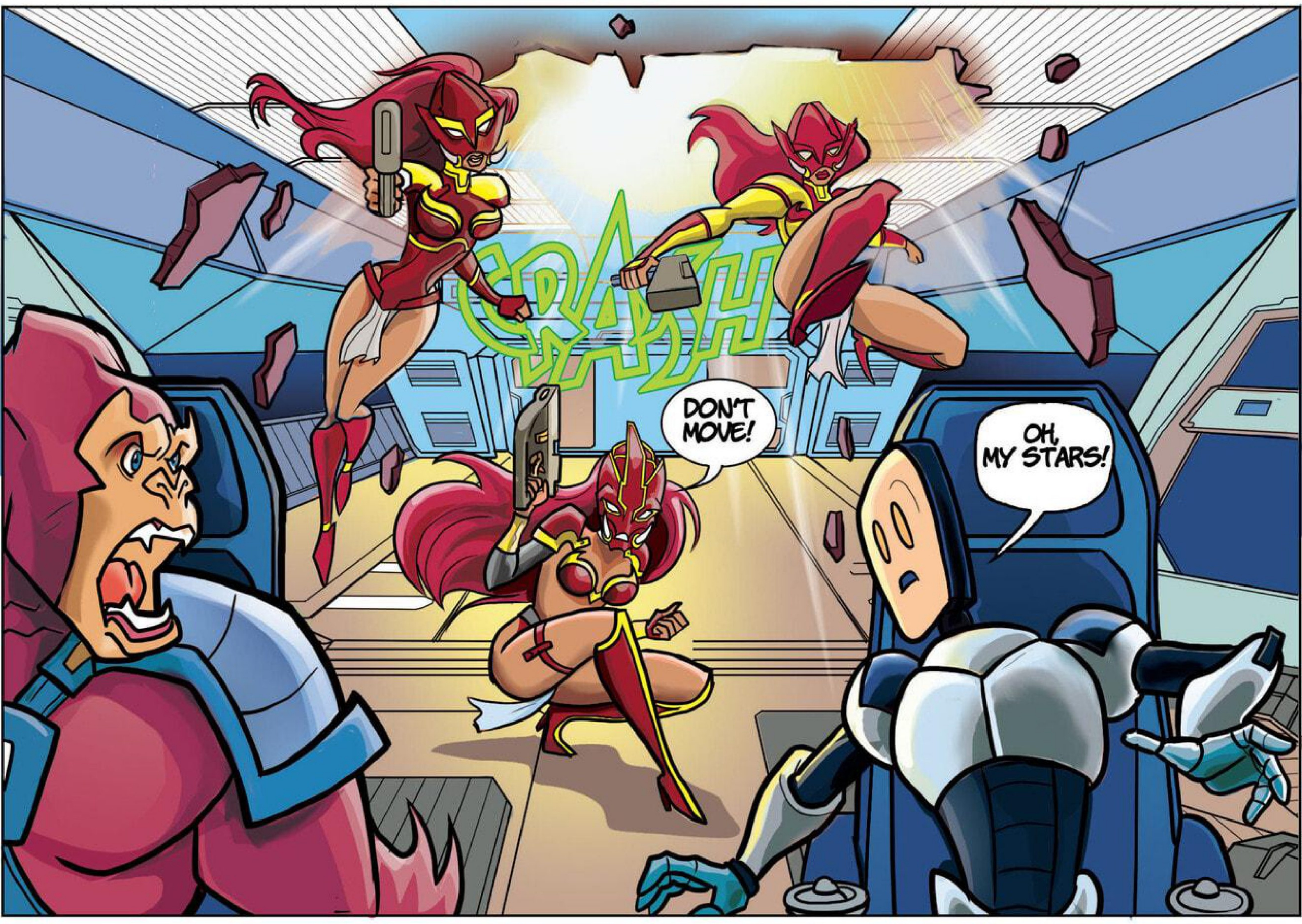

REEEARRRGH!
AAAIIIEEE!
GO LOW! THEY'LL PICK US UP ON SCANS!
GO HIGHER! THAT MONSTER IS GAINING!
GREEAARRR!
SHOOT IT AGAIN!
NOW SOMEONE IS OPENING THE CARGO BAY DOOR! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
LITTLE BUSY HERE, D.A.S.!
<WHINE>
FWOOOSH!
HURMMM!

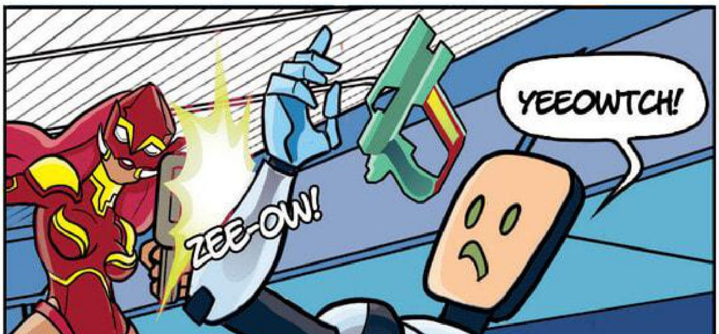

GRRBLLBLATCH!
MRRRAW!
...MUNCH...?
POW!
WHINE!
MUNCH!

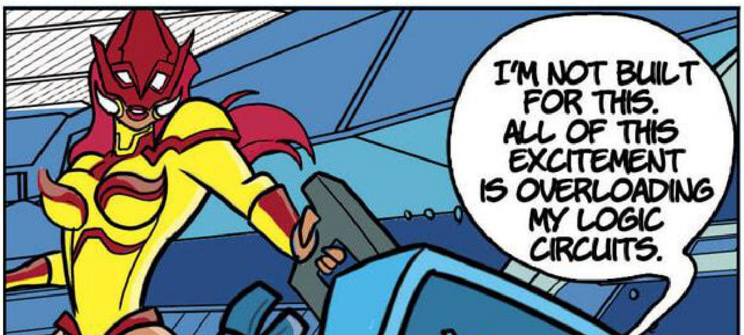

MEANWHILE, IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF THRONEWORLD...
SO... COME HERE OFTEN?
...NOTHING? THAT'S FINE. DON'T MIND ME. I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND ENSURE YOUR DOMINATION OF THE GALAXY.
THAT IS WISE, DR. ZEON.
THE WEAPON. I NEED THE FINAL PIECE. NOW
IT'S DELICATE WORK, MY QUEEN. VERY DELICATE. I'M IN THE FINAL TESTING PHASE NOW. IT WILL DO ITS JOB, I PROMISE YOU YOU'LL GET WHAT YOU WANT VERY - ULP!
MY GUESTS ARE HERE, DEAR DOCTOR, DEMANDING A SHOW. YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO DISAPPOINT THEM... OR ME... WOULD YOU?
N-NO. NO.
WE SHALL SEE. MEN NEVER SEEM TO RISE TO THE CHALLENGE, DOCTOR.
THE TESTICLES OF THOSE WHO HAVE FAILED ME ADORN MY TROPHY CASE.
YOU HAVE ONE HOUR.

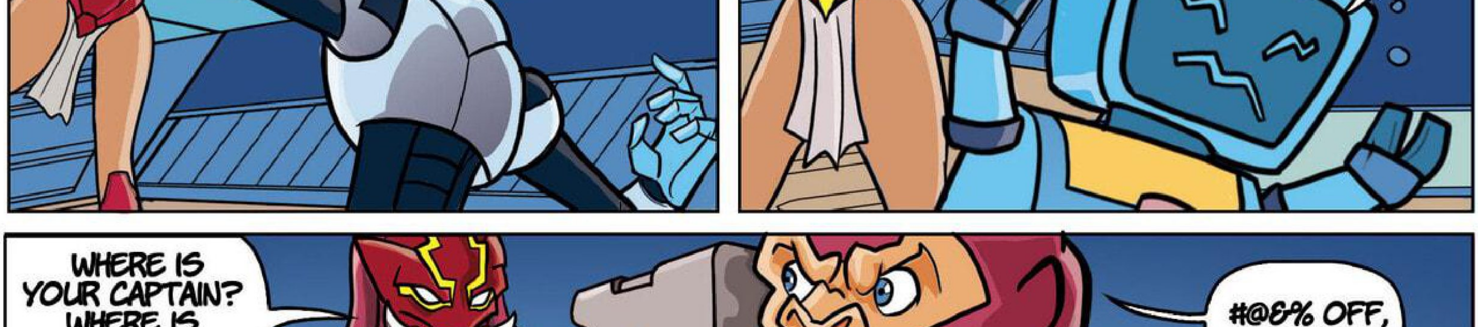

I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT ON OVER A HUNDRED KNOWN WORLDS. HIS METABOLISM IS ASTONISHING. MUNCH IS HEALTHY, BUT HE'S EXHAUSTED. THAT... TRANSFORMATION... REALLY TOOK IT OUT OF HIM.
OH, AND HE'S RAVENOUS.
OKAY, YOU LITTLE BEAST, LET'S GET YOU SOMETHING TO EAT, THEN.
SQUEEP!
B-DEEP! B-DEEP!
WHAT IS IT, D.A.S.? WHAT'S THE DAMAGE?
EXTENSIVE. THE HELIX CAN FLY IF YOU WANT TO CALL WHAT WE DO "FLYING," BUT SHE'S IN ROUGH SHAPE.
I WISH YOU WOULD'VE STOPPED AT SPACE FORCE COMMAND FOR UPDATES AND NEWER EQUIPMENT. WE'RE HOLDING THIS STUFF TOGETHER WITH CHEWING GUM AND A PRAYER.
I DON'T WANT ORDON'S SHABBY EQUIPMENT.
BUT YOU'RE WILLING TO TAKE ON JOBS LIKE THIS FOR HIM.
IT'S NOT FOR HIM, D.A.S. THE STAKES ARE HIGH, RIGHT?
BESIDES, I'M ALWAYS WILLING TO TAKE HIS MONEY.
I'M ON MY WAY UP.
BLIP!
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH. SEE YOU SOON.
THE HELIX IS READY AS SHE'LL EVER BE.
WHERE TO NEXT, D.A.S.?

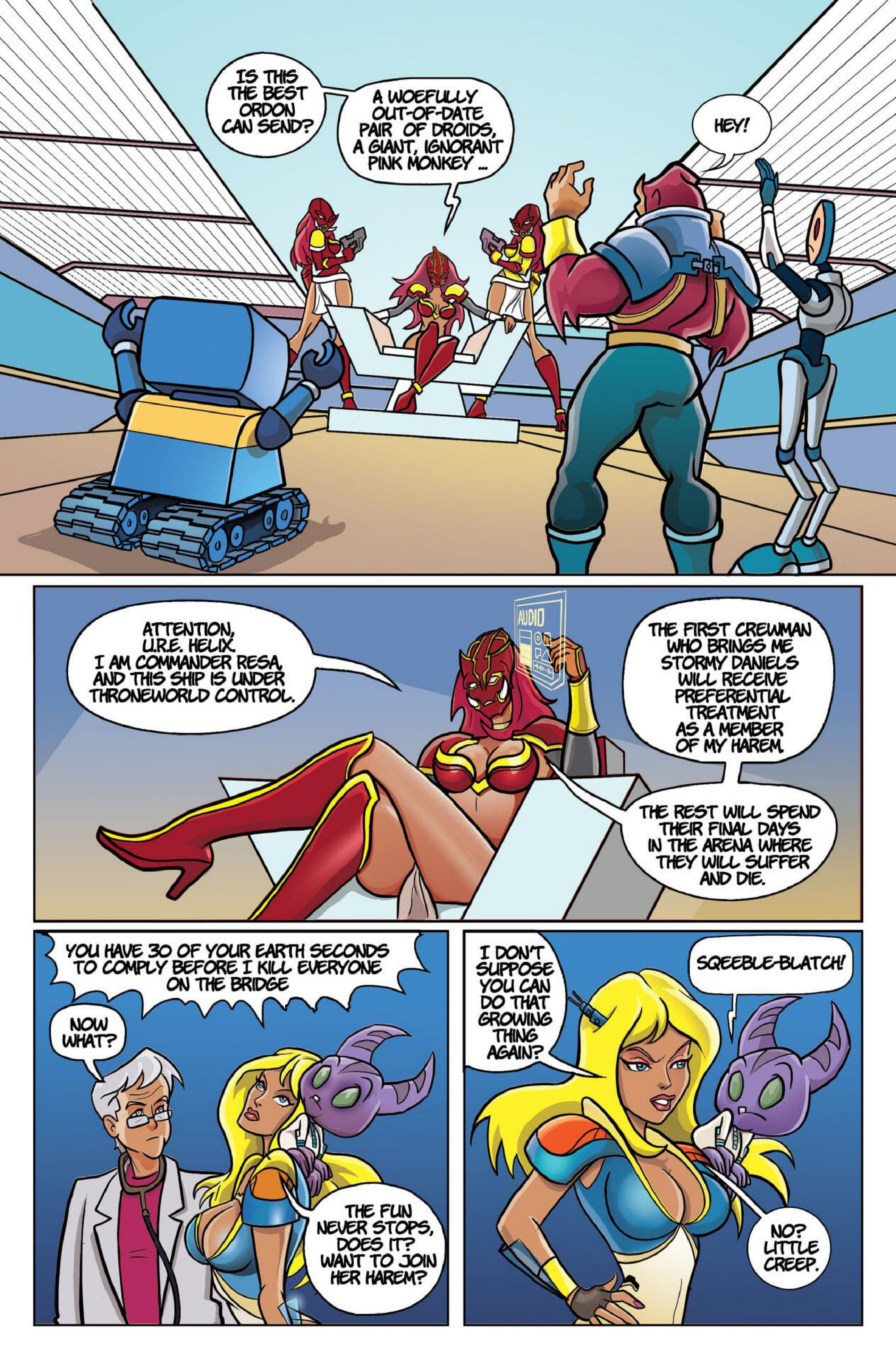

JUST HANG TIGHT UNTIL STORMY MAKES IT TO THE BRIDGE.

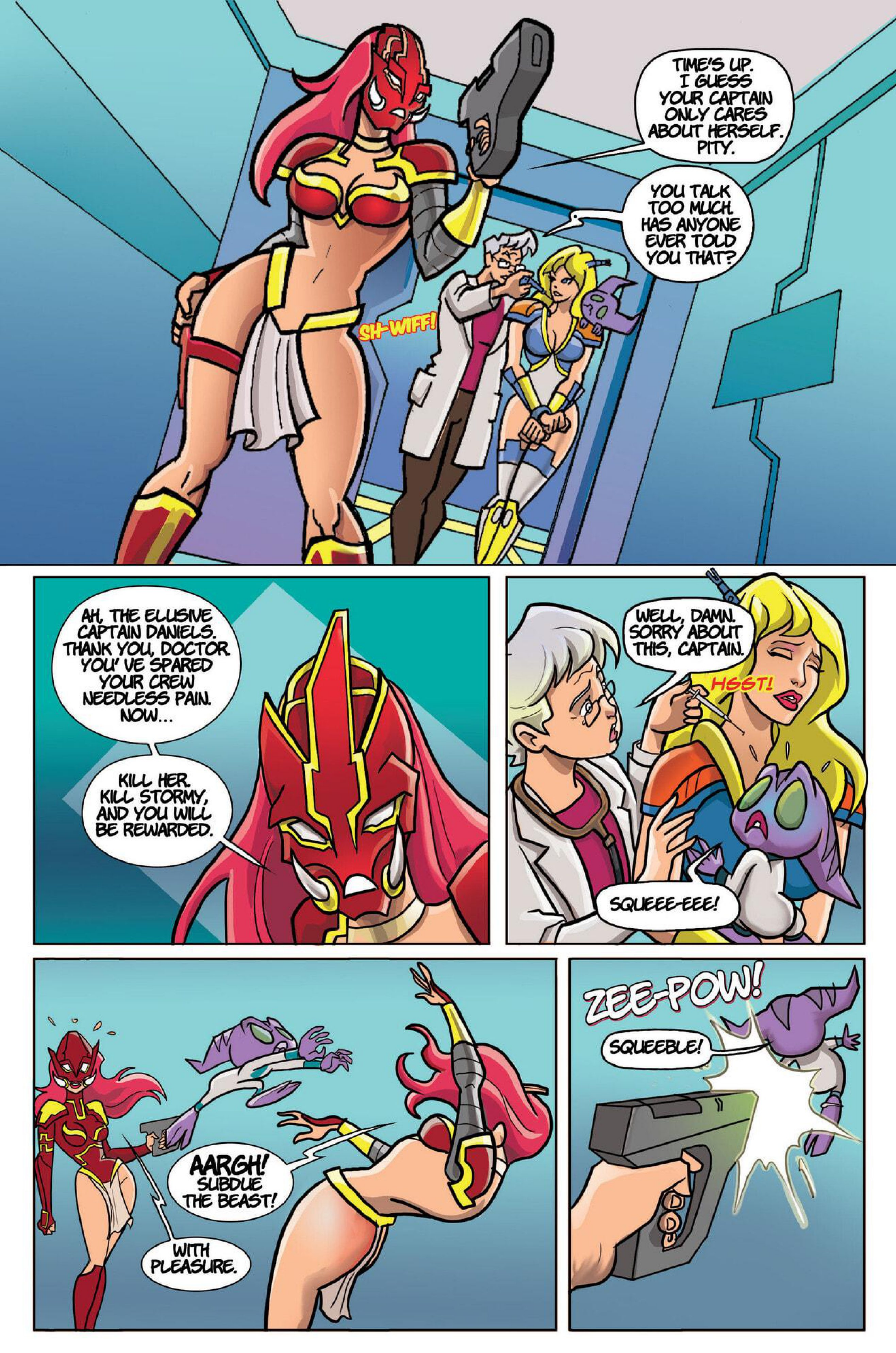

CRASH
DON'T MOVE!
OH, MY STARS!

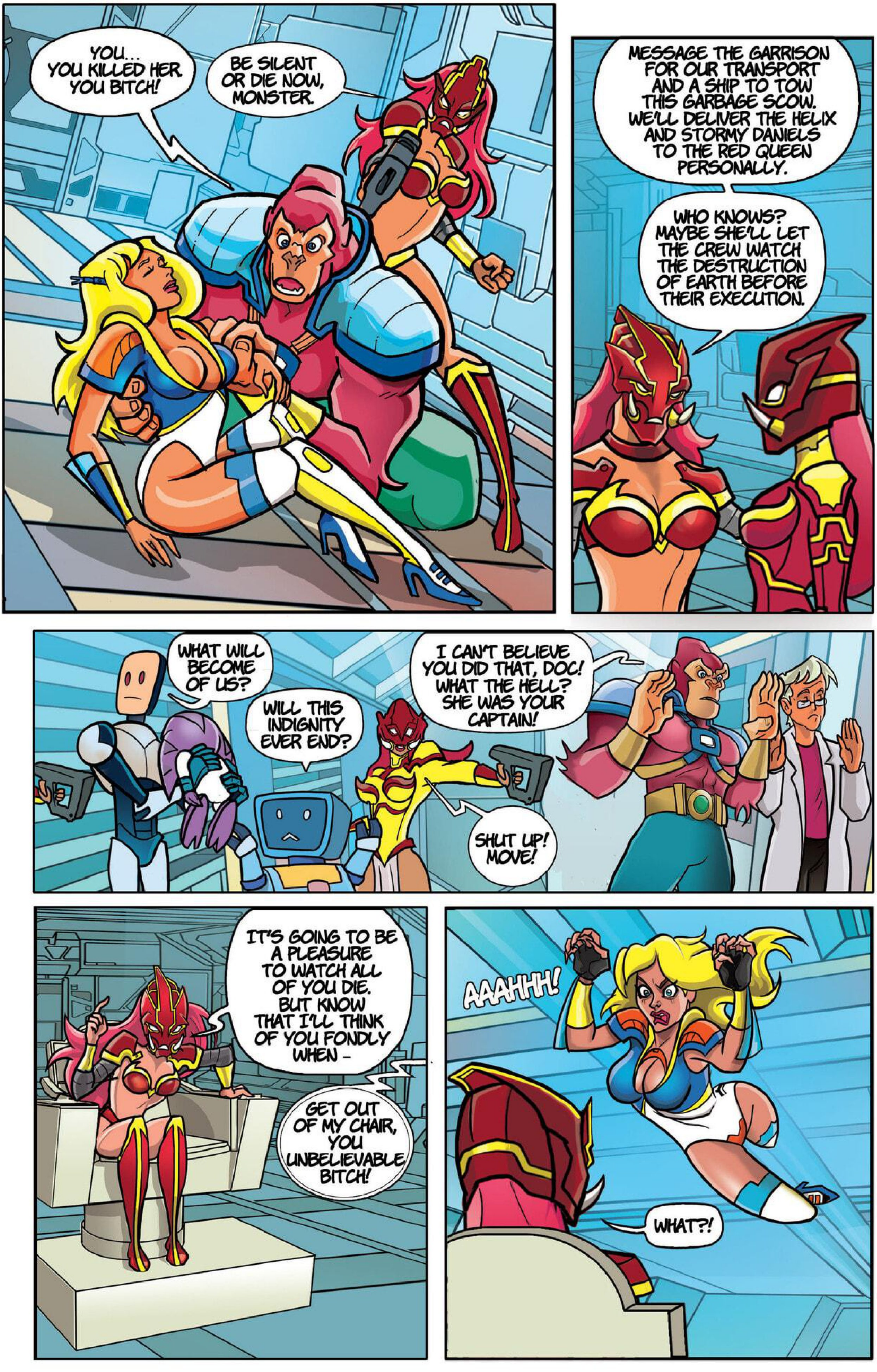

ZEE-OW!
YEEOWTCH!

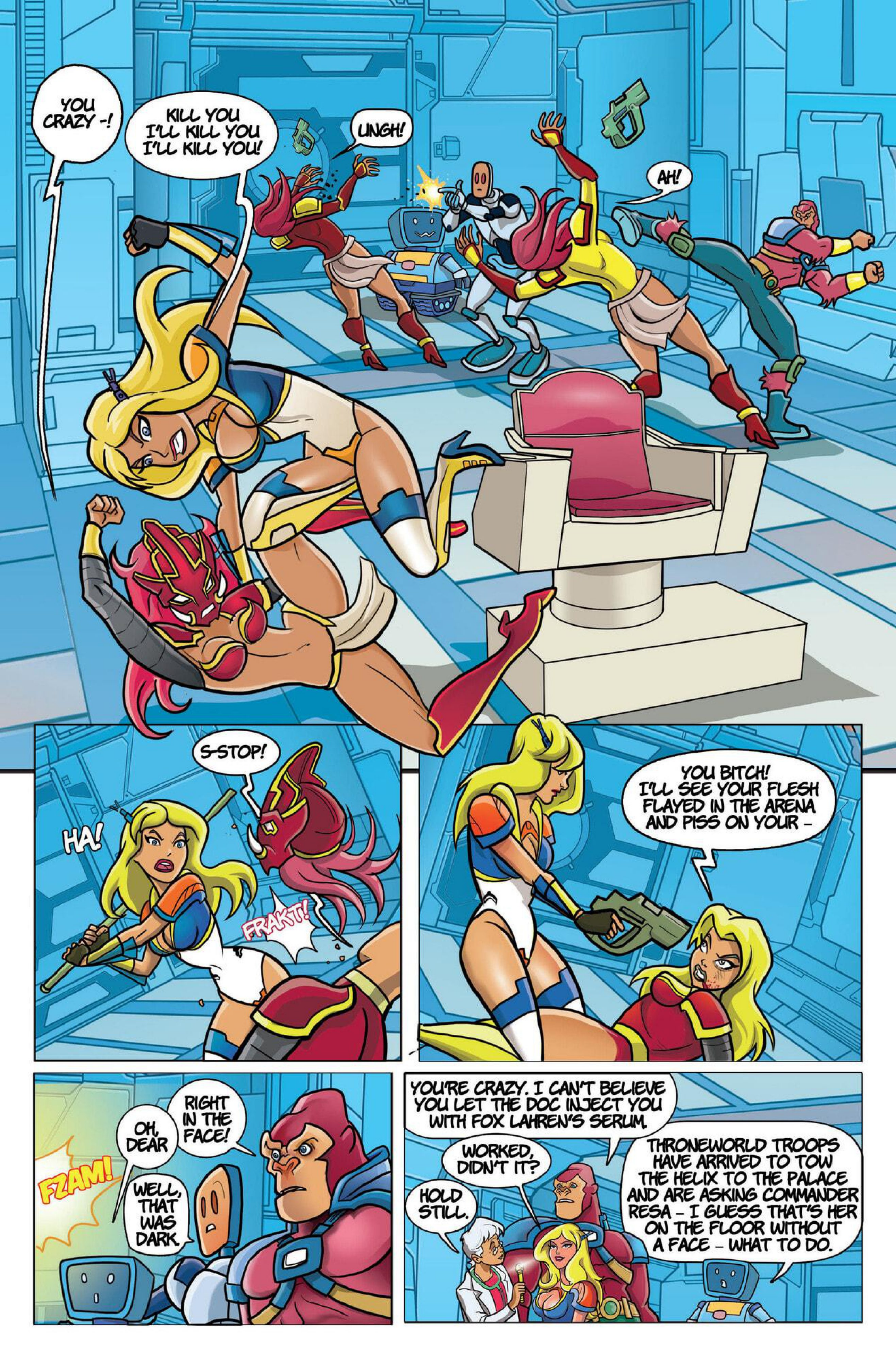

I'M NOT BUILT FOR THIS. ALL OF THIS EXCITEMENT IS OVERLOADING MY LOGIC CIRCUITS.

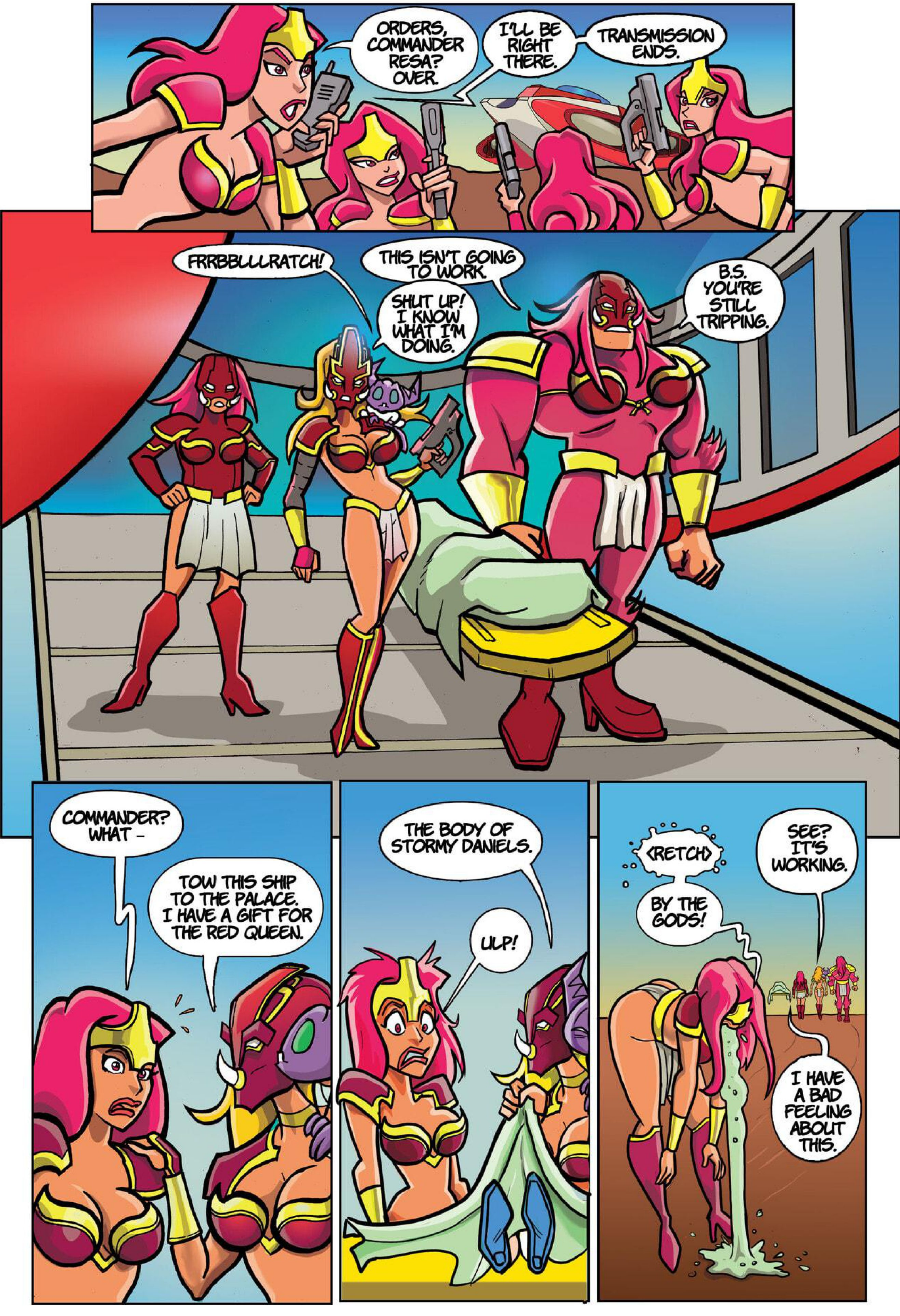

WHERE IS YOUR CAPTAIN? WHERE IS THAT BITCH, STORMY DANIELS?
#@&% OFF, LACKEY.

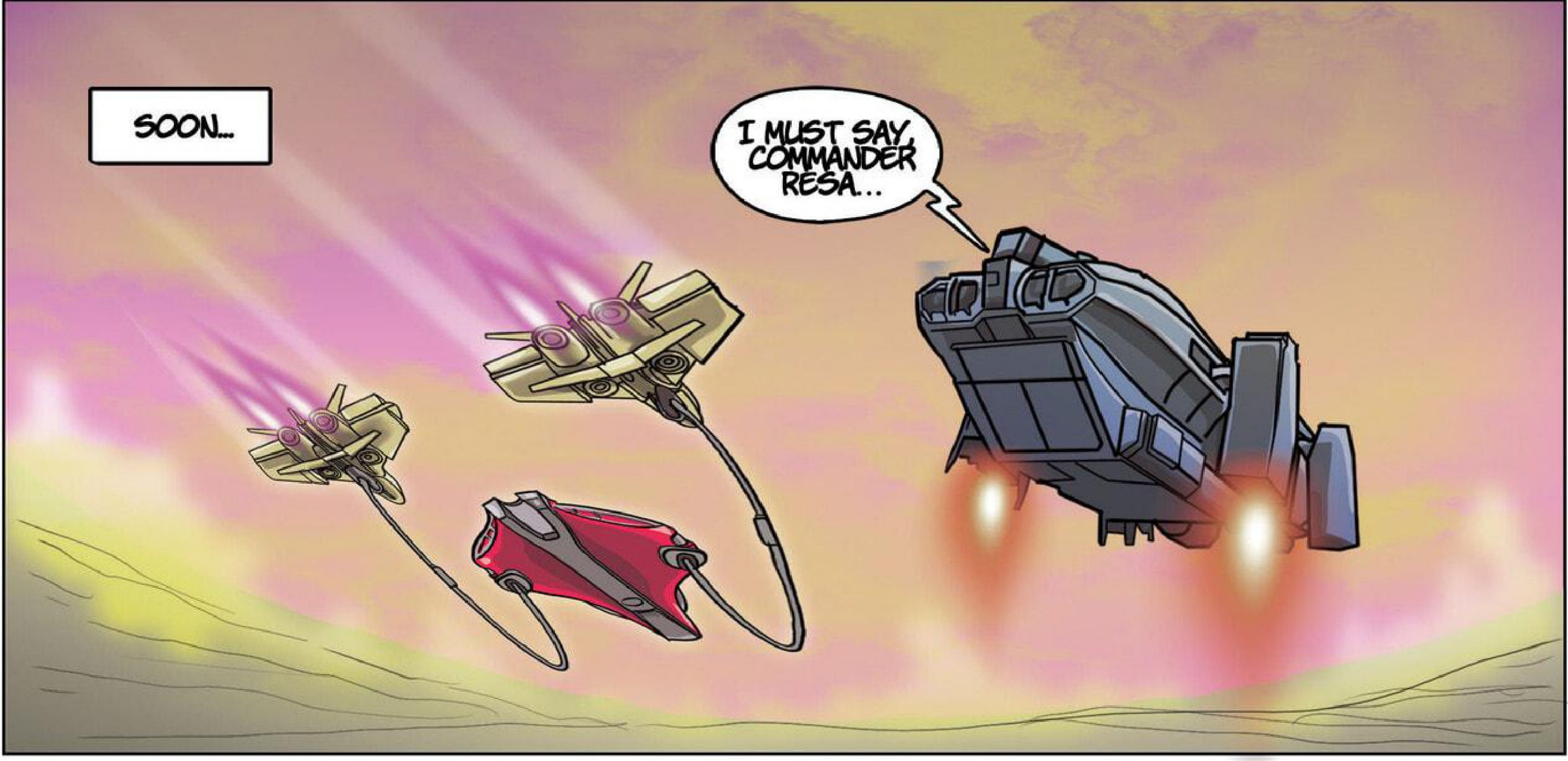

IS THIS THE BEST ORDON CAN SEND?
A WOEFULLY OUT-OF-DATE PAIR OF DROIDS, A GIANT, IGNORANT PINK MONKEY ...
HEY!
AUDIO
ATTENTION, U.R.E. HELIX. I AM COMMANDER RESA, AND THIS SHIP IS UNDER THRONEWORLD CONTROL.
THE FIRST CREWMAN WHO BRINGS ME STORMY DANIELS WILL RECEIVE PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT AS A MEMBER OF MY HAREM.
THE REST WILL SPEND THEIR FINAL DAYS IN THE ARENA WHERE THEY WILL SUFFER AND DIE.
YOU HAVE 30 OF YOUR EARTH SECONDS TO COMPLY BEFORE I KILL EVERYONE ON THE BRIDGE
NOW WHAT?
THE FUN NEVER STOPS, DOES IT? WANT TO JOIN HER HAREM?
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU CAN DO THAT GROWING THING AGAIN?
SQEEBLE-BLATCH!
NO? LITTLE CREEP.

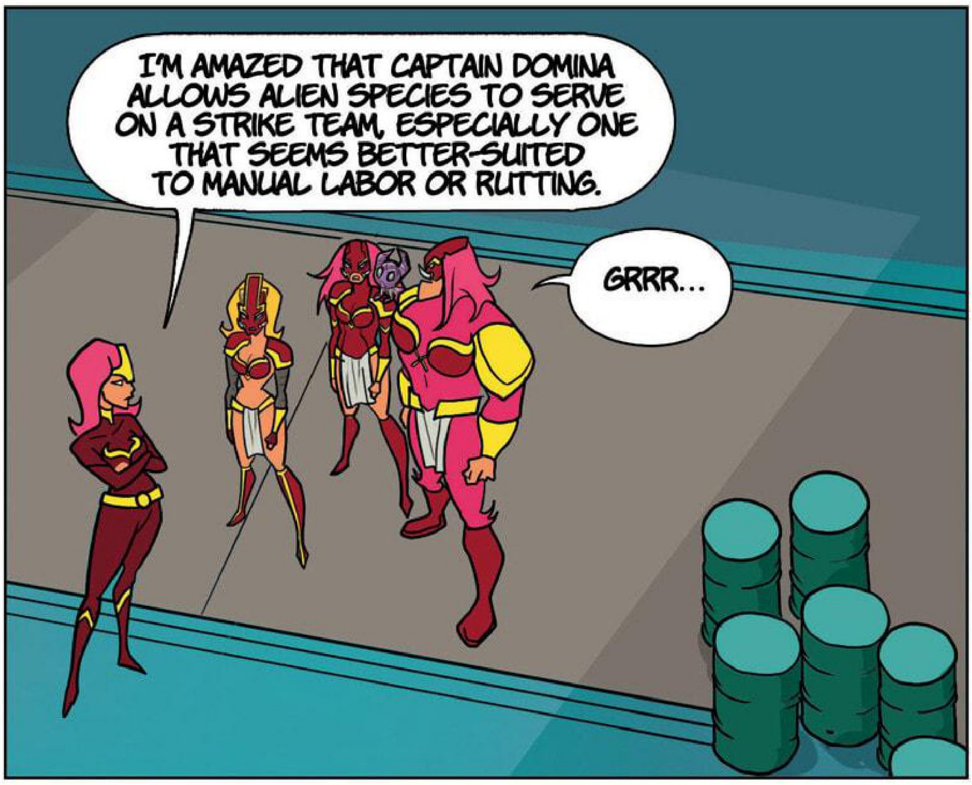

TIME'S UP. I GUESS YOUR CAPTAIN ONLY CARES ABOUT HERSELF. PITY.
YOU TALK TOO MUCH. HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT?
SH-WIFF!
AH, THE ELUSIVE CAPTAIN DANIELS. THANK YOU, DOCTOR. YOU' VE SPARED YOUR CREW NEEDLESS PAIN. NOW...
KILL HER. KILL STORMY, AND YOU WILL BE REWARDED.
WELL, DAMN. SORRY ABOUT THIS, CAPTAIN.
HSST!
SQUEEE-EEE!
AARGH! SUBDUE THE BEAST!
WITH PLEASURE.
ZEE-POW!
SQUEEBLE!

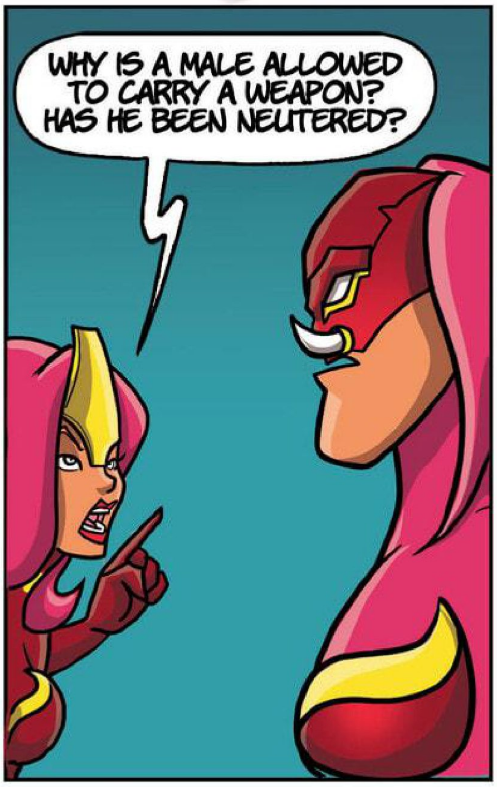

YOU... YOU KILLED HER. YOU BITCH!
BE SILENT OR DIE NOW, MONSTER.
MESSAGE THE GARRISON FOR OUR TRANSPORT AND A SHIP TO TOW THIS GARBAGE SCOW. WE'LL DELIVER THE HELIX AND STORMY DANIELS TO THE RED QUEEN PERSONALLY.
WHO KNOWS? MAYBE SHE'LL LET THE CREW WATCH THE DESTRUCTION OF EARTH BEFORE THEIR EXECUTION.
WHAT WILL BECOME OF US?
WILL THIS INDIGNITY EVER END?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DID THAT, DOC! WHAT THE HELL? SHE WAS YOUR CAPTAIN!
SHUT UP! MOVE!
IT'S GOING TO BE A PLEASURE TO WATCH ALL OF YOU DIE. BUT KNOW THAT I'LL THINK OF YOU FONDLY WHEN –
GET OUT OF MY CHAIR, YOU UNBELIEVABLE BITCH!
AAAHHH!
WHAT?!

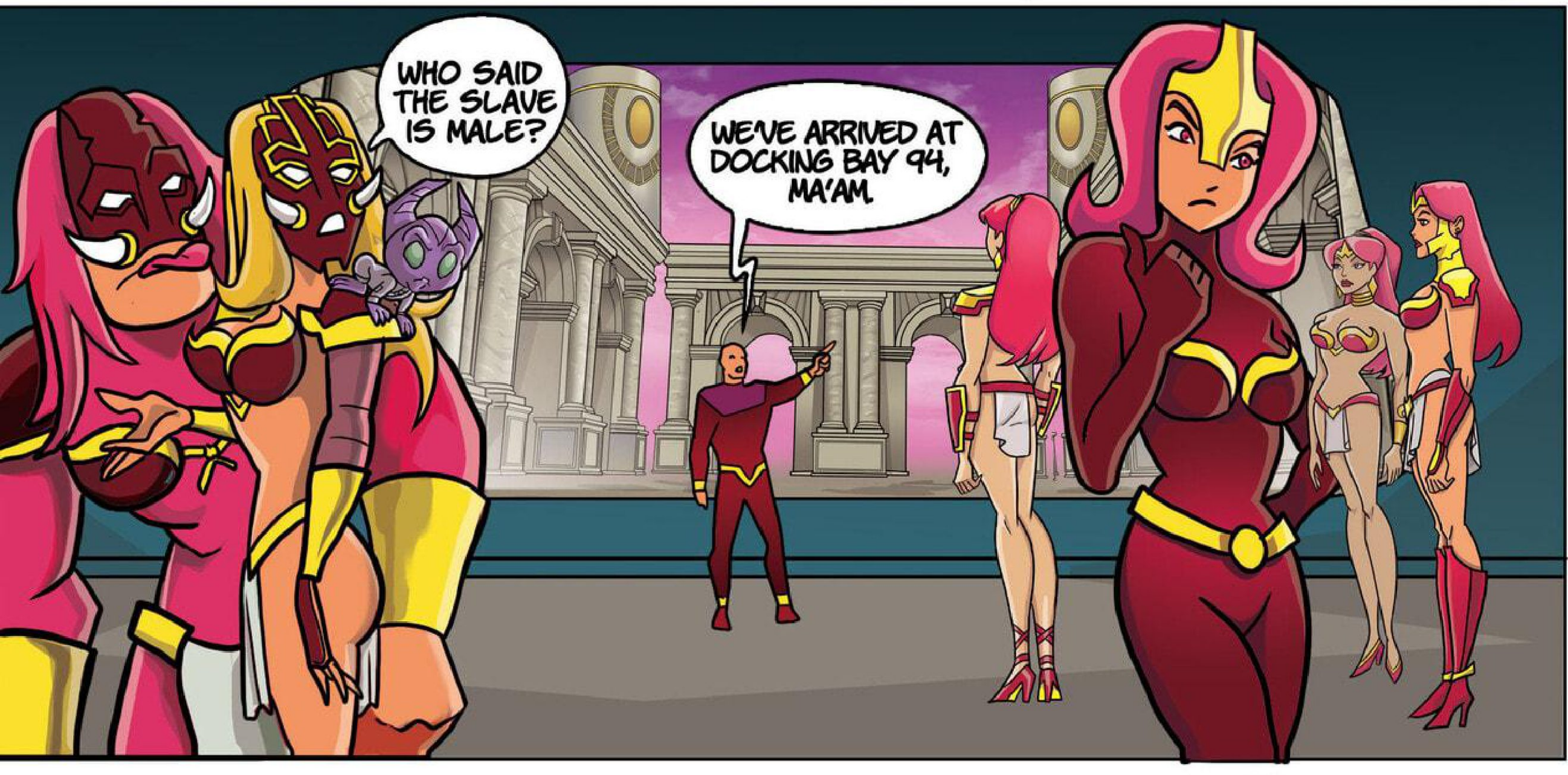

YOU CRAZY -!
KILL YOU I'LL KILL YOU I'LL KILL YOU!
UNGH!
AH!
S-STOP!
HA!
FRAKT!
YOU BITCH! I'LL SEE YOUR FLESH FLAYED IN THE ARENA AND PISS ON YOUR –
FZAM!
RIGHT IN THE FACE!
OH, DEAR
WELL, THAT WAS DARK.
YOU'RE CRAZY. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU LET THE DOC INJECT YOU WITH FOX LAHREN'S SERUM.
WORKED, DIDN'T IT?
HOLD STILL.
THRONEWORLD TROOPS HAVE ARRIVED TO TOW THE HELIX TO THE PALACE AND ARE ASKING COMMANDER RESA – I GUESS THAT'S HER ON THE FLOOR WITHOUT A FACE – WHAT TO DO.

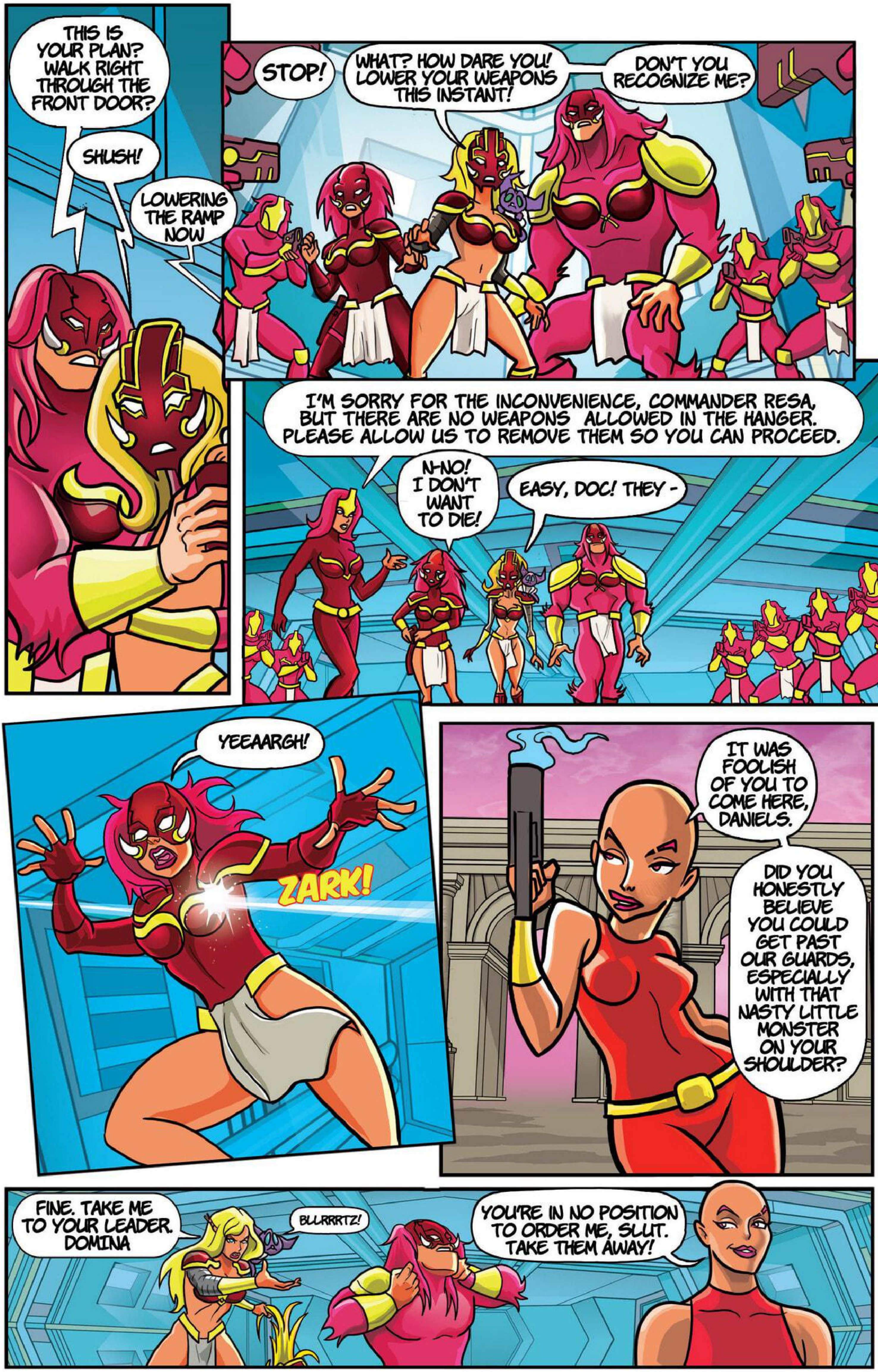

ORDERS, COMMANDER RESA? OVER.
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
TRANSMISSION ENDS.
FRRBBLLLRATCH!
THIS ISN'T GOING TO WORK.
SHUT UP! I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING.
B.S. YOU'RE STILL TRIPPING.
COMMANDER? WHAT –
TOW THIS SHIP TO THE PALACE. I HAVE A GIFT FOR THE RED QUEEN.
THE BODY OF STORMY DANIELS.
ULP!
‹RETCH›
BY THE GODS!
SEE? IT'S WORKING.
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.

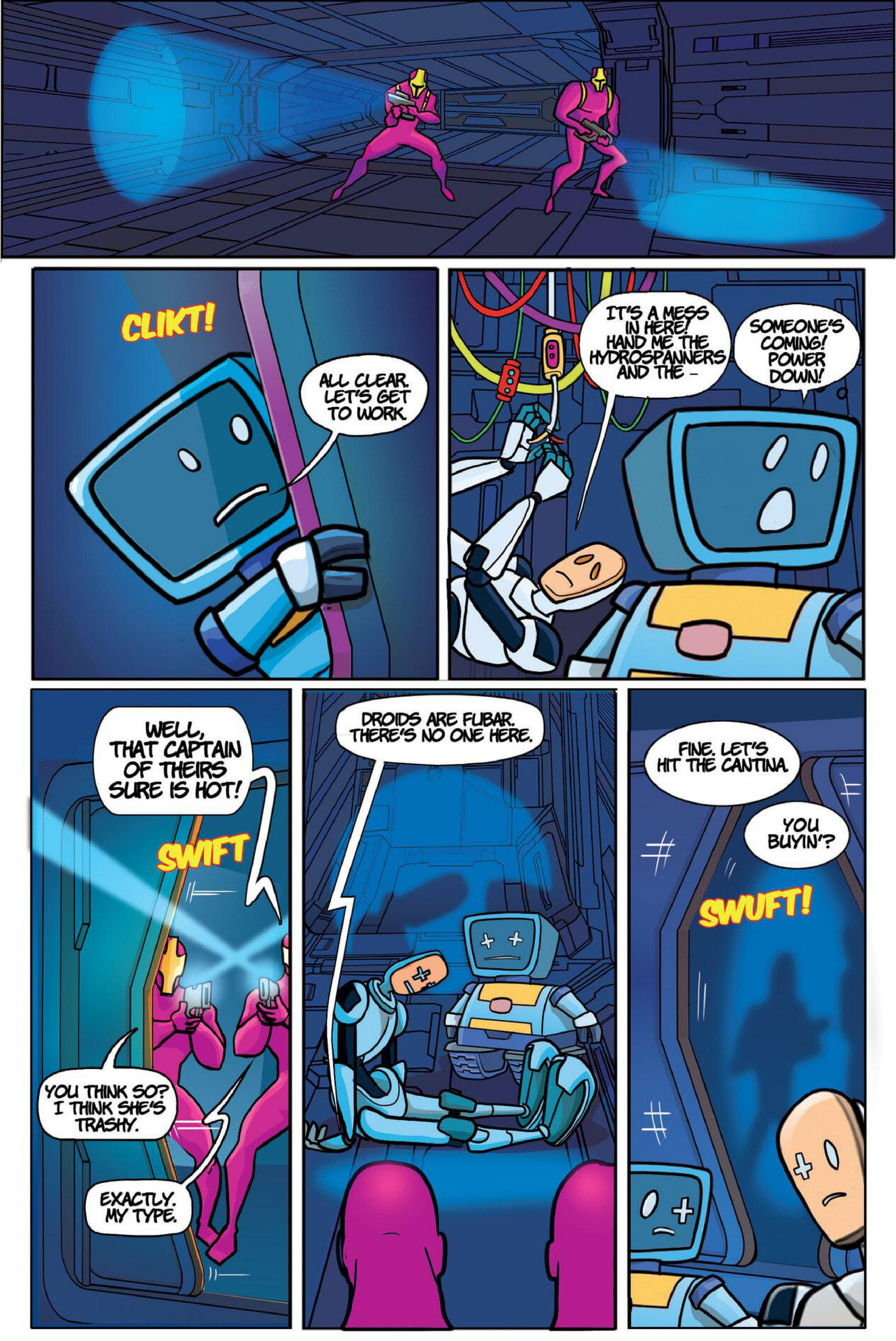

SOON...
I MUST SAY, COMMANDER RESA...

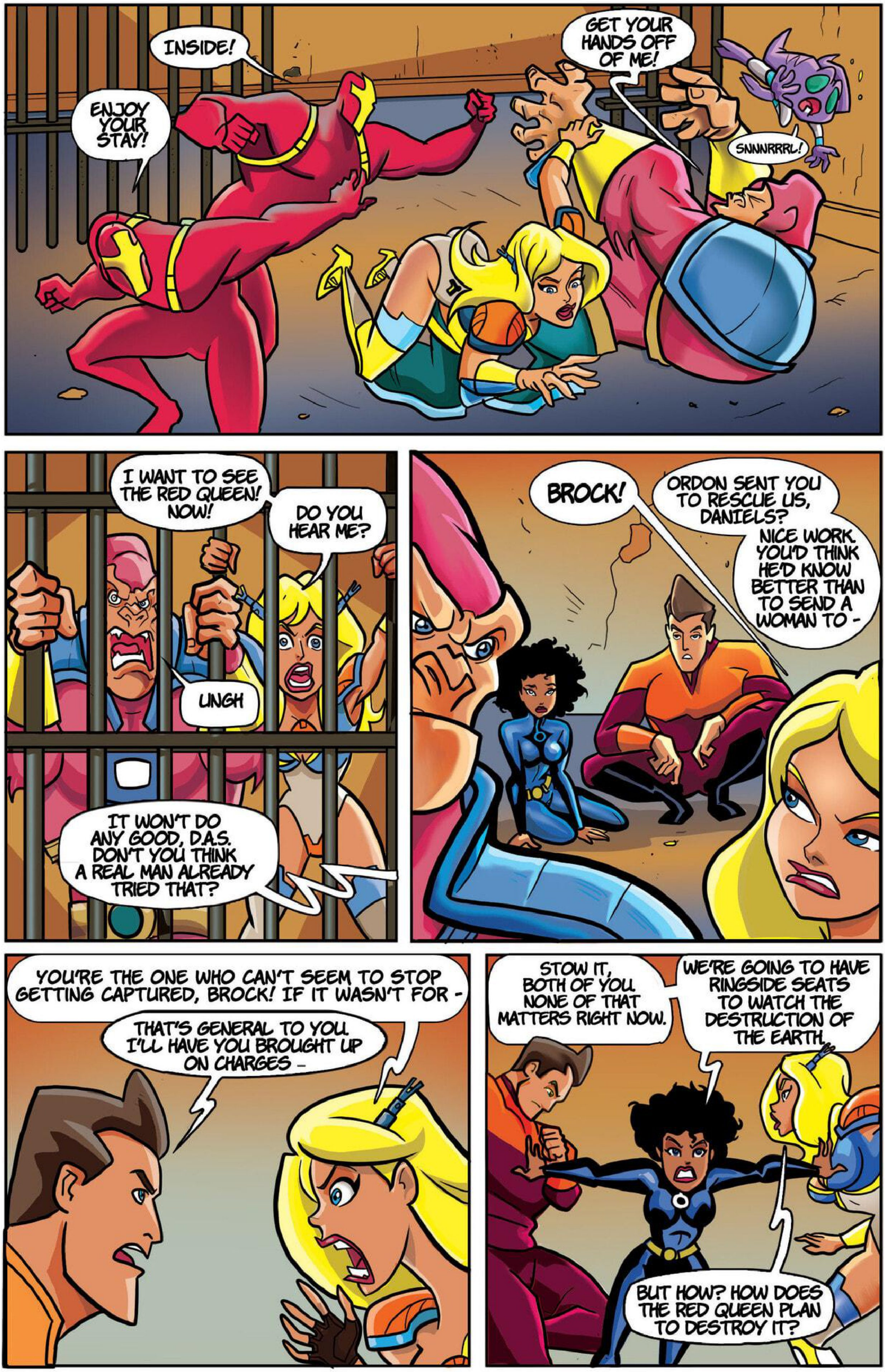

I'M AMAZED THAT CAPTAIN DOMINA ALLOWS ALIEN SPECIES TO SERVE ON A STRIKE TEAM, ESPECIALLY ONE THAT SEEMS BETTER-SUITED TO MANUAL LABOR OR RUTTING.
GRRR...

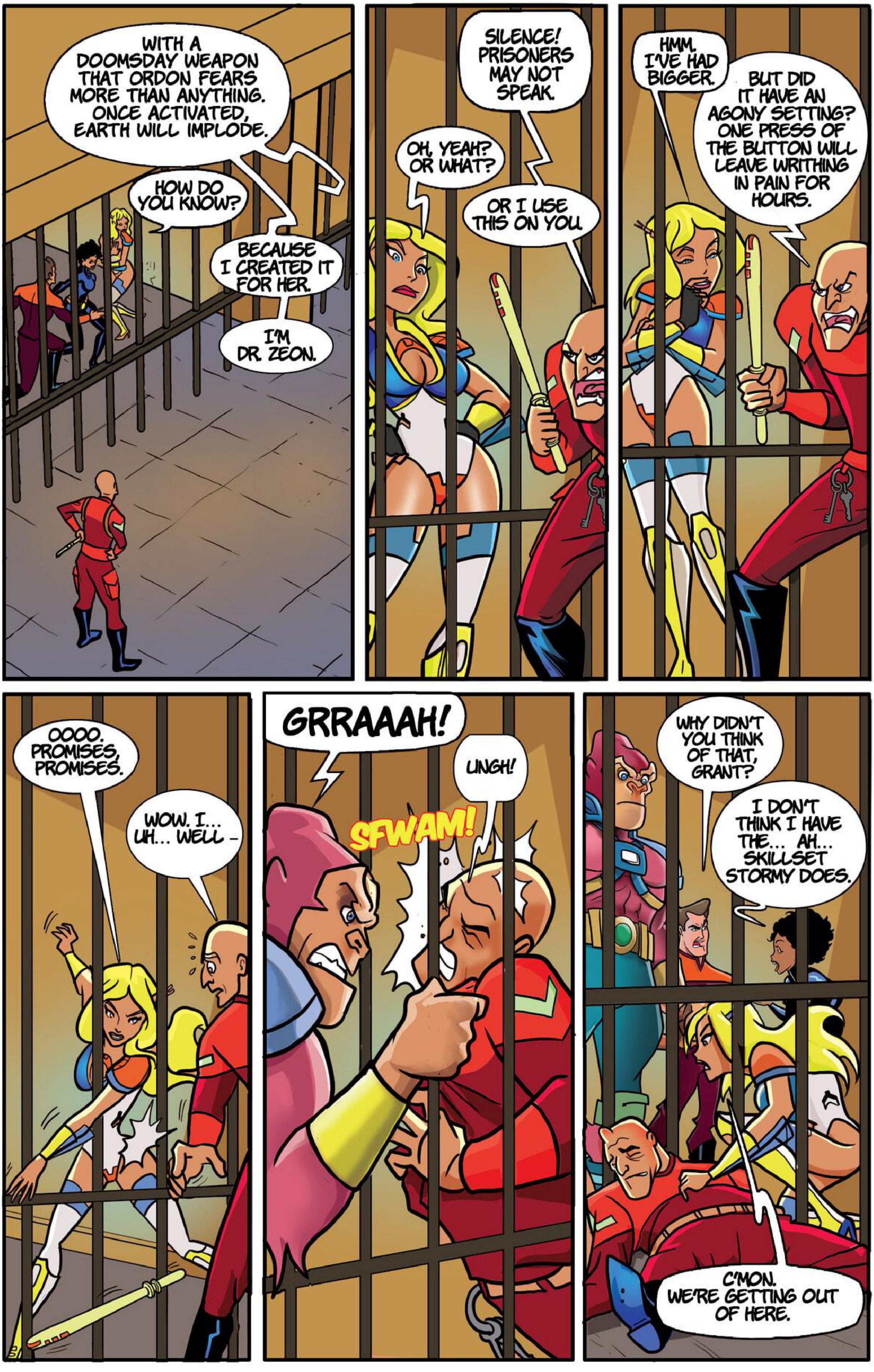

WHY IS A MALE ALLOWED TO CARRY A WEAPON? HAS HE BEEN NEUTERED?

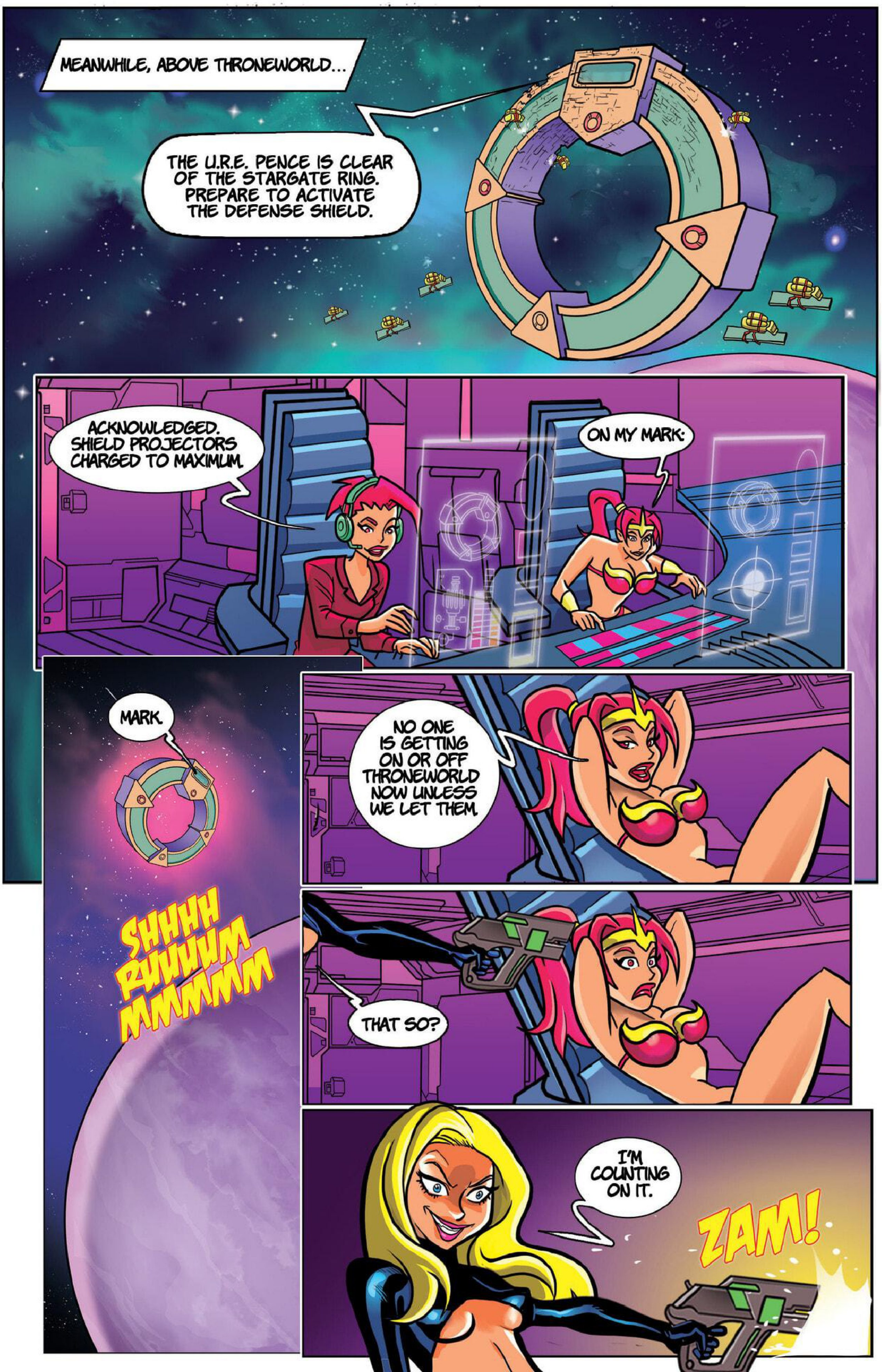

WHO SAID THE SLAVE IS MALE?
WE'VE ARRIVED AT DOCKING BAY 94, MA'AM.


THIS IS YOUR PLAN? WALK RIGHT THROUGH THE FRONT DOOR?
SHUSH!
LOWERING THE RAMP NOW
STOP!
WHAT? HOW DARE YOU! LOWER YOUR WEAPONS THIS INSTANT!
DON'T YOU RECOGNIZE ME?
I'M SORRY FOR THE INCONVENIENCE, COMMANDER RESA, BUT THERE ARE NO WEAPONS ALLOWED IN THE HANGER. PLEASE ALLOW US TO REMOVE THEM SO YOU CAN PROCEED.
N-NO! I DON'T WANT TO DIE!
EASY, DOC! THEY -
YEEAARGH!
ZARK!
IT WAS FOOLISH OF YOU TO COME HERE, DANIELS.
DID YOU HONESTLY BELIEVE YOU COULD GET PAST OUR GUARDS, ESPECIALLY WITH THAT NASTY LITTLE MONSTER ON YOUR SHOULDER?
FINE. TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER. DOMINA
BLLRRRTZ!
YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO ORDER ME, SLUT. TAKE THEM AWAY!

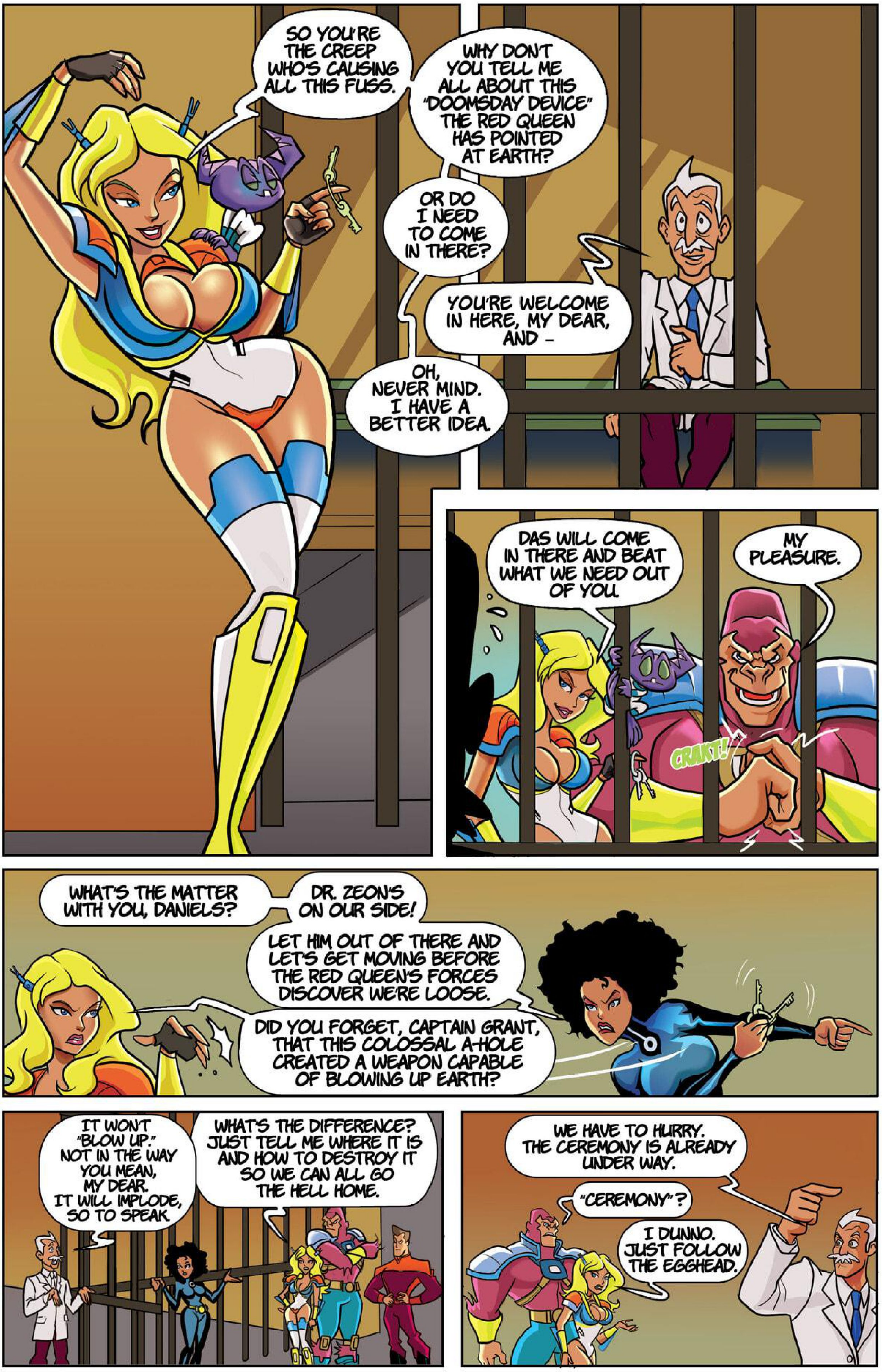

CLIKT!
ALL CLEAR. LET'S GET TO WORK.
IT'S A MESS IN HERE! HAND ME THE HYDROSPANNERS AND THE –
SOMEONE'S COMING! POWER DOWN!
WELL, THAT CAPTAIN OF THEIRS SURE IS HOT!
SWIFT
YOU THINK SO? I THINK SHE'S TRASHY.
EXACTLY. MY TYPE.
DROIDS ARE FUBAR. THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
FINE. LET'S HIT THE CANTINA.
YOU BUYIN'?
SWUFT!

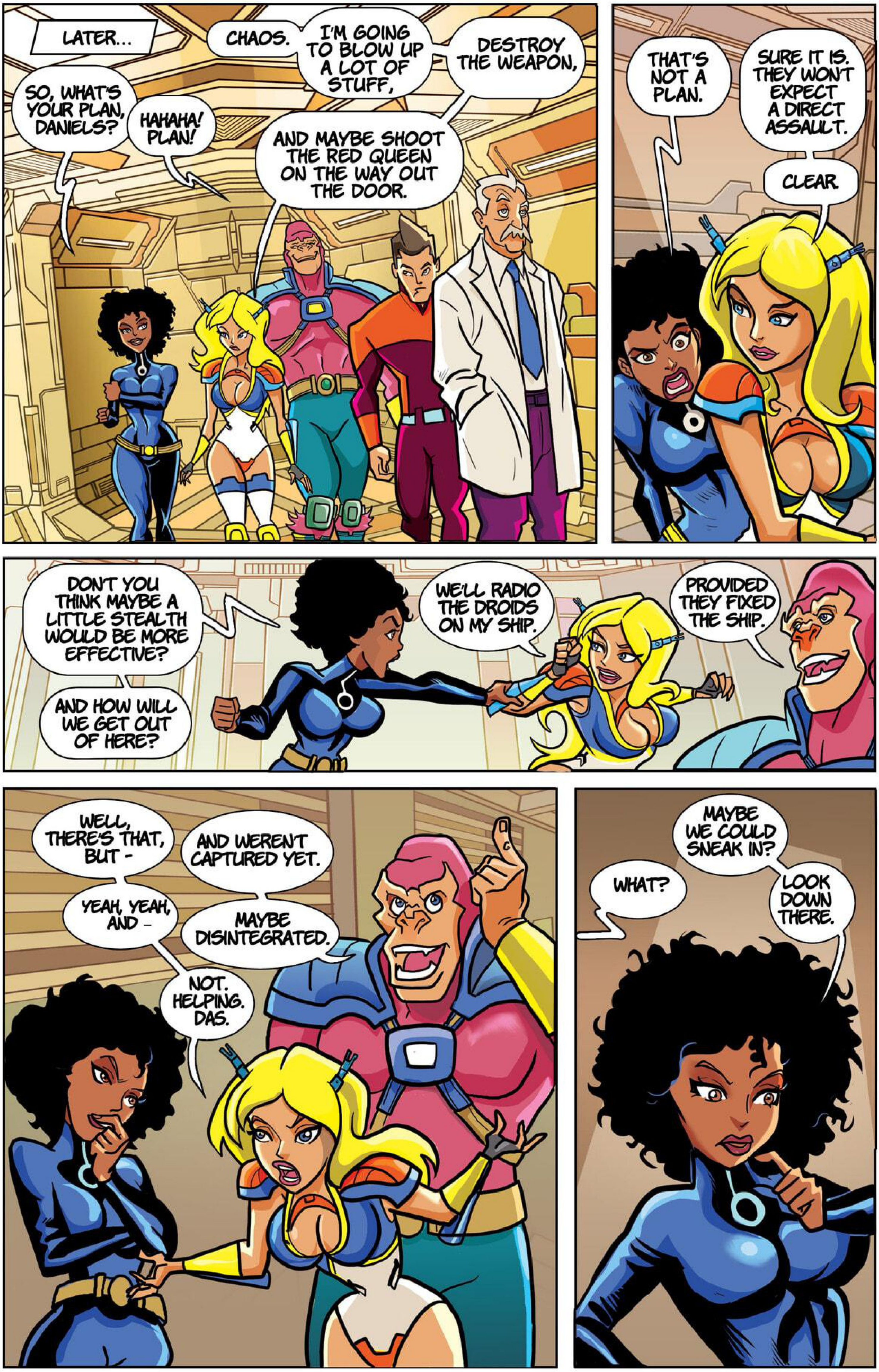

INSIDE!
ENJOY YOUR STAY!
GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF ME!
SNNNRRRL!
I WANT TO SEE THE RED QUEEN! NOW!
DO YOU HEAR ME?
UNGH
IT WON'T DO ANY GOOD, D.A.S. DON'T YOU THINK A REAL MAN ALREADY TRIED THAT?
BROCK!
ORDON SENT YOU TO RESCUE US, DANIELS?
NICE WORK. YOU'D THINK HE'D KNOW BETTER THAN TO SEND A WOMAN TO -
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAN'T SEEM TO STOP GETTING CAPTURED, BROCK! IF IT WASN'T FOR -
THAT'S GENERAL TO YOU. I'LL HAVE YOU BROUGHT UP ON CHARGES -
STOW IT, BOTH OF YOU. NONE OF THAT MATTERS RIGHT NOW.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE RINGSIDE SEATS TO WATCH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH.
BUT HOW? HOW DOES THE RED QUEEN PLAN TO DESTROY IT?

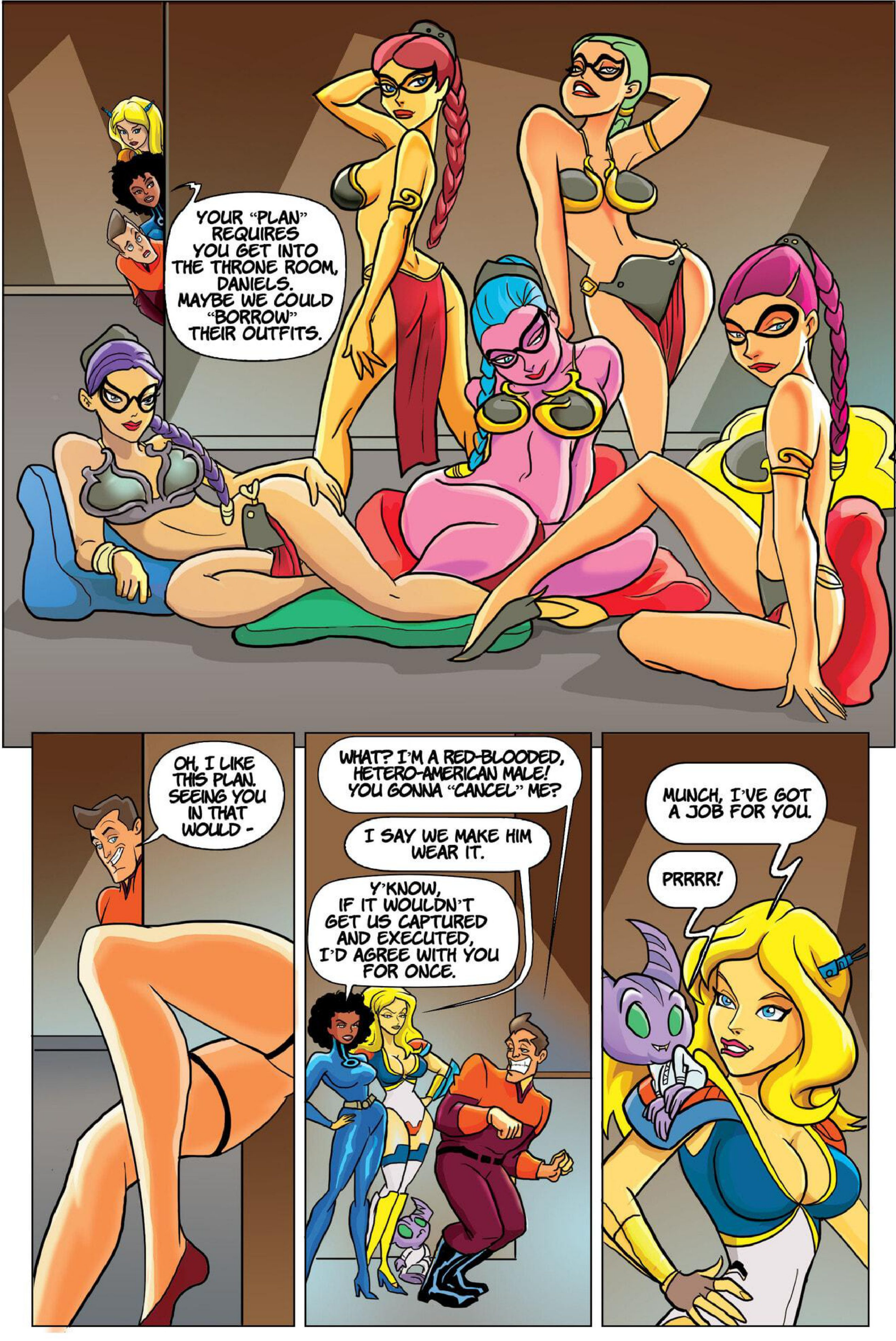

WITH A DOOMSDAY WEAPON THAT ORDON FEARS MORE THAN ANYTHING. ONCE ACTIVATED, EARTH WILL IMPLODE.
HOW DO YOU KNOW?
BECAUSE I CREATED IT FOR HER.
I'M DR. ZEON.
SILENCE! PRISONERS MAY NOT SPEAK.
OH, YEAH? OR WHAT?
OR I USE THIS ON YOU.
HMM. I'VE HAD BIGGER.
BUT DID IT HAVE AN AGONY SETTING? ONE PRESS OF THE BUTTON WILL LEAVE WRITHING IN PAIN FOR HOURS.
OOOO. PROMISES, PROMISES.
WOW. I... UH... WELL -
GRRAAAH!
SFWAM!
UNGH!
WHY DIDN'T YOU THINK OF THAT, GRANT?
I DON'T THINK I HAVE THE... AH... SKILLSET STORMY DOES.
C'MON. WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE.

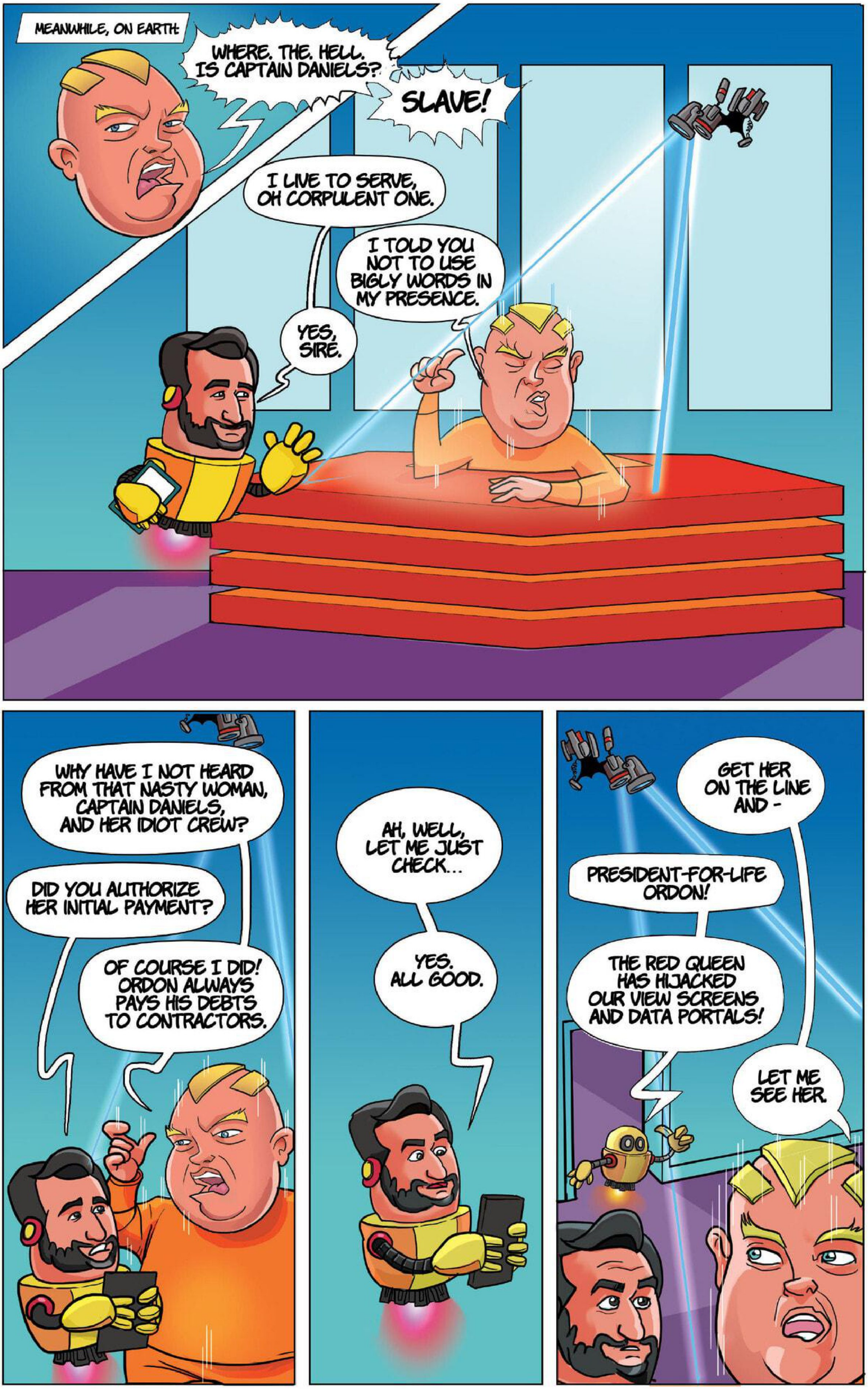

MEANWHILE, ABOVE THRONEWORLD...
THE U.R.E. PENCE IS CLEAR OF THE STARGATE RING. PREPARE TO ACTIVATE THE DEFENSE SHIELD.
ACKNOWLEDGED. SHIELD PROJECTORS CHARGED TO MAXIMUM.
ON MY MARK:
MARK.
SHHHH RUUUUM MMMMM
NO ONE IS GETTING ON OR OFF THRONEWORLD NOW UNLESS WE LET THEM.
THAT SO?
I'M COUNTING ON IT.
ZAM!

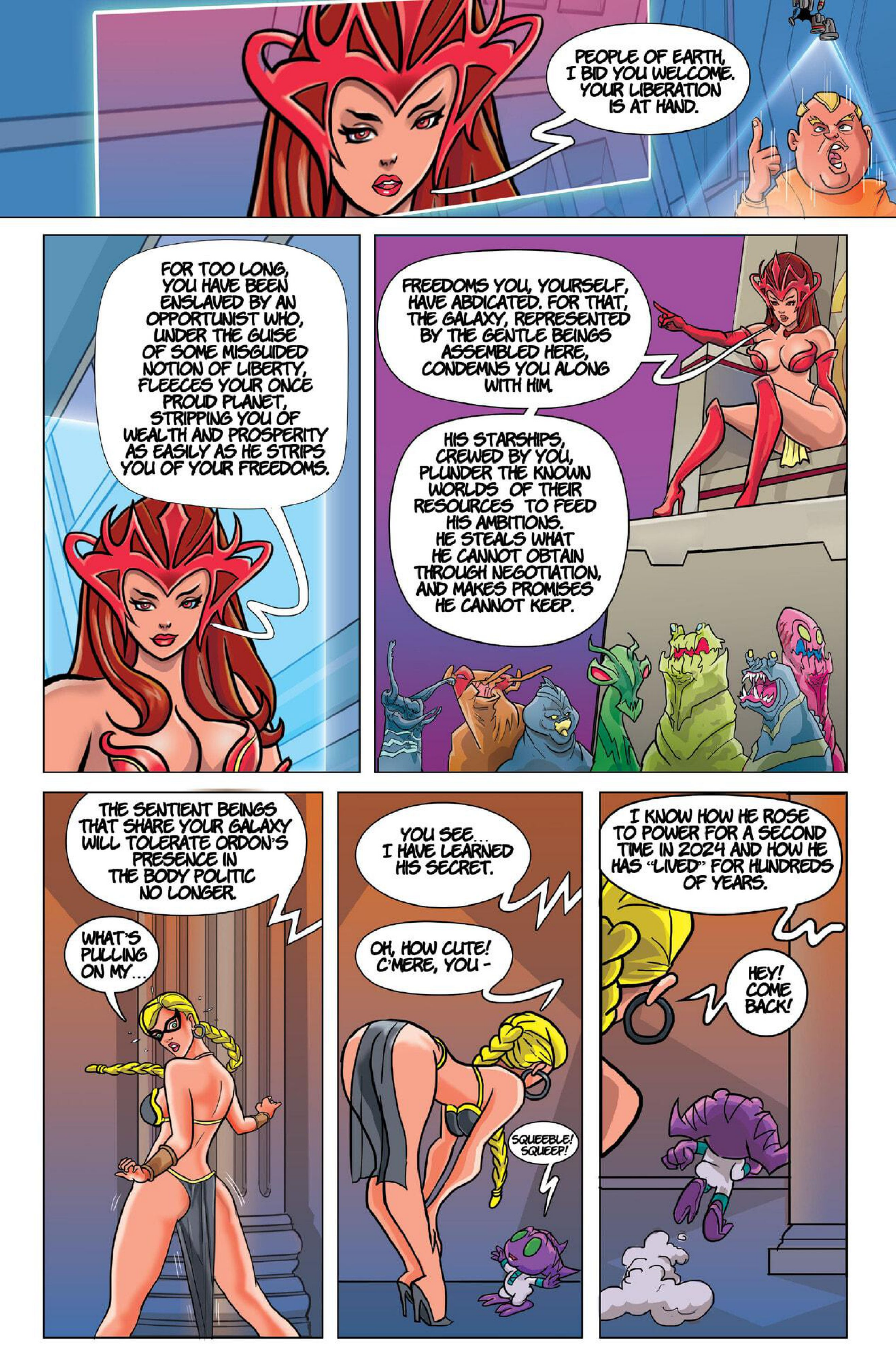
MISSION
FOUR
Fernando Martinena
'20

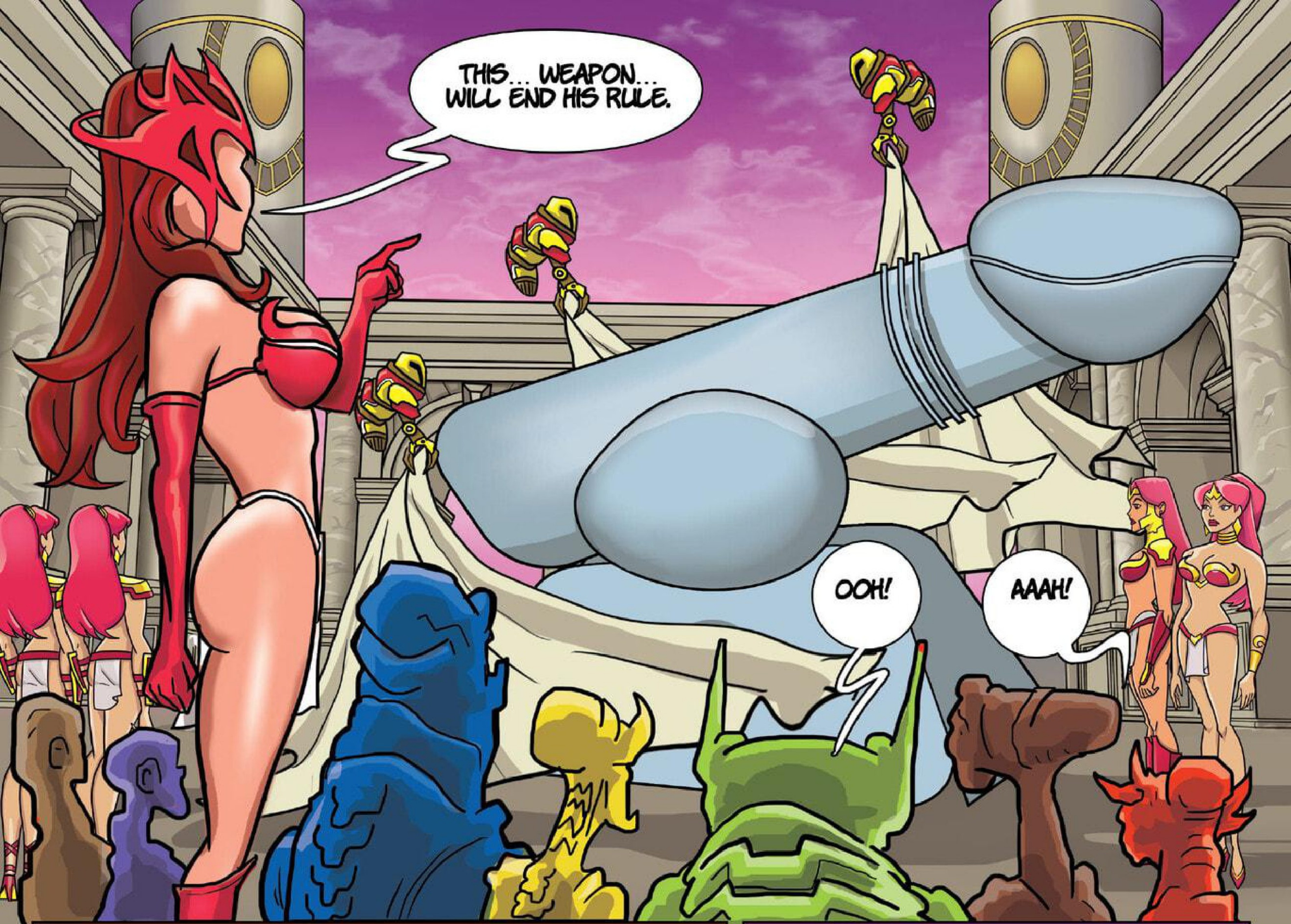

SO YOU'RE THE CREEP WHO'S CAUSING ALL THIS FUSS.
WHY DON'T YOU TELL ME ALL ABOUT THIS "DOOMSDAY DEVICE" THE RED QUEEN HAS POINTED AT EARTH?
OR DO I NEED TO COME IN THERE?
YOU'RE WELCOME IN HERE, MY DEAR, AND –
OH, NEVER MIND. I HAVE A BETTER IDEA.
DAS WILL COME IN THERE AND BEAT WHAT WE NEED OUT OF YOU.
MY PLEASURE.
CRAKT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, DANIELS?
DR. ZEON'S ON OUR SIDE!
LET HIM OUT OF THERE AND LET'S GET MOVING BEFORE THE RED QUEEN'S FORCES DISCOVER WE'RE LOOSE.
DID YOU FORGET, CAPTAIN GRANT, THAT THIS COLOSSAL A-HOLE CREATED A WEAPON CAPABLE OF BLOWING UP EARTH?
IT WON'T "BLOW UP." NOT IN THE WAY YOU MEAN, MY DEAR. IT WILL IMPLODE, SO TO SPEAK.
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? JUST TELL ME WHERE IT IS AND HOW TO DESTROY IT SO WE CAN ALL GO THE HELL HOME.
WE HAVE TO HURRY. THE CEREMONY IS ALREADY UNDER WAY.
"CEREMONY"?
I DUNNO. JUST FOLLOW THE EGGHEAD.

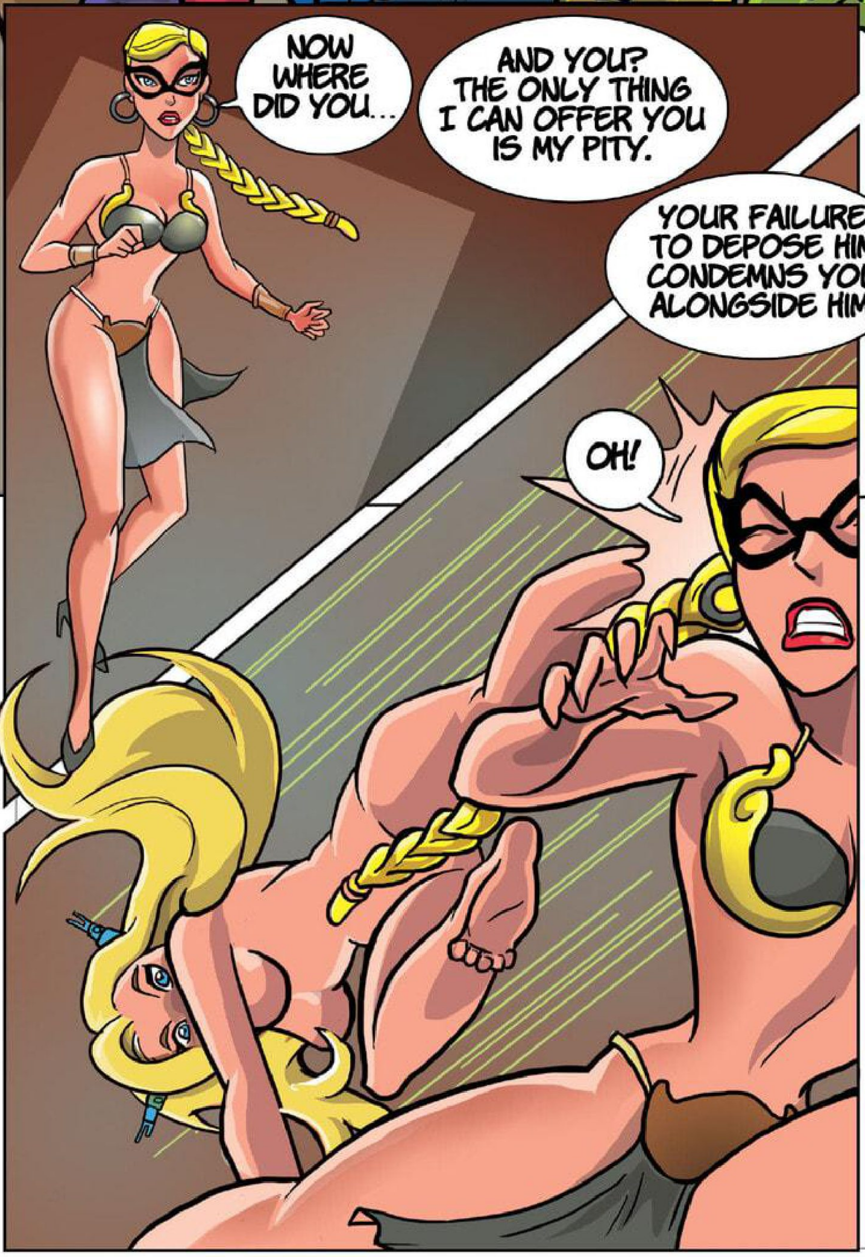

LATER...
SO, WHAT'S YOUR PLAN, DANIELS?
HAHAHA! PLAN!
CHAOS.
I'M GOING TO BLOW UP A LOT OF STUFF,
DESTROY THE WEAPON,
AND MAYBE SHOOT THE RED QUEEN ON THE WAY OUT THE DOOR.
THAT'S NOT A PLAN.
SURE IT IS. THEY WON'T EXPECT A DIRECT ASSAULT.
CLEAR.
DON'T YOU THINK MAYBE A LITTLE STEALTH WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE?
AND HOW WILL WE GET OUT OF HERE?
WE'LL RADIO THE DROIDS ON MY SHIP.
PROVIDED THEY FIXED THE SHIP.
WELL, THERE'S THAT, BUT -
AND WERENT CAPTURED YET.
YEAH, YEAH, AND -
MAYBE DISINTEGRATED.
NOT. HELPING. DAS.
MAYBE WE COULD SNEAK IN?
WHAT?
LOOK DOWN THERE.

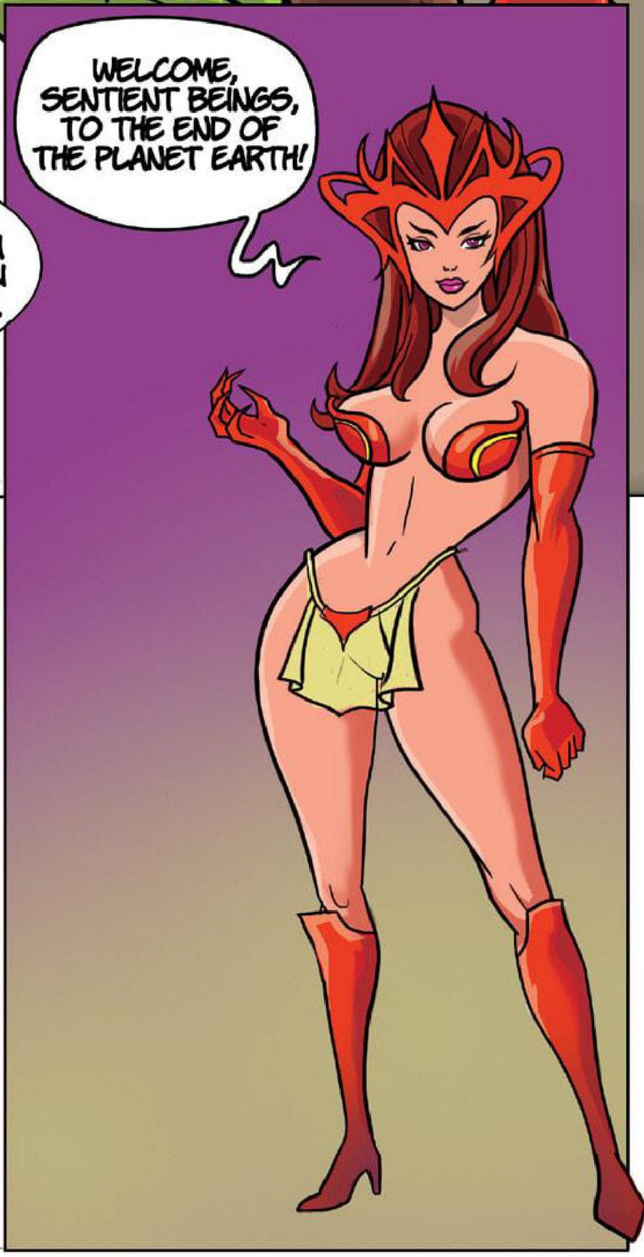

YOUR "PLAN" REQUIRES YOU GET INTO THE THRONE ROOM, DANIELS. MAYBE WE COULD "BORROW" THEIR OUTFITS.
OH, I LIKE THIS PLAN. SEEING YOU IN THAT WOULD -
WHAT? I'M A RED-BLOODED, HETERO-AMERICAN MALE! YOU GONNA "CANCEL" ME?
I SAY WE MAKE HIM WEAR IT.
Y'KNOW, IF IT WOULDN'T GET US CAPTURED AND EXECUTED, I'D AGREE WITH YOU FOR ONCE.
MUNCH, I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU.
PRRRR!

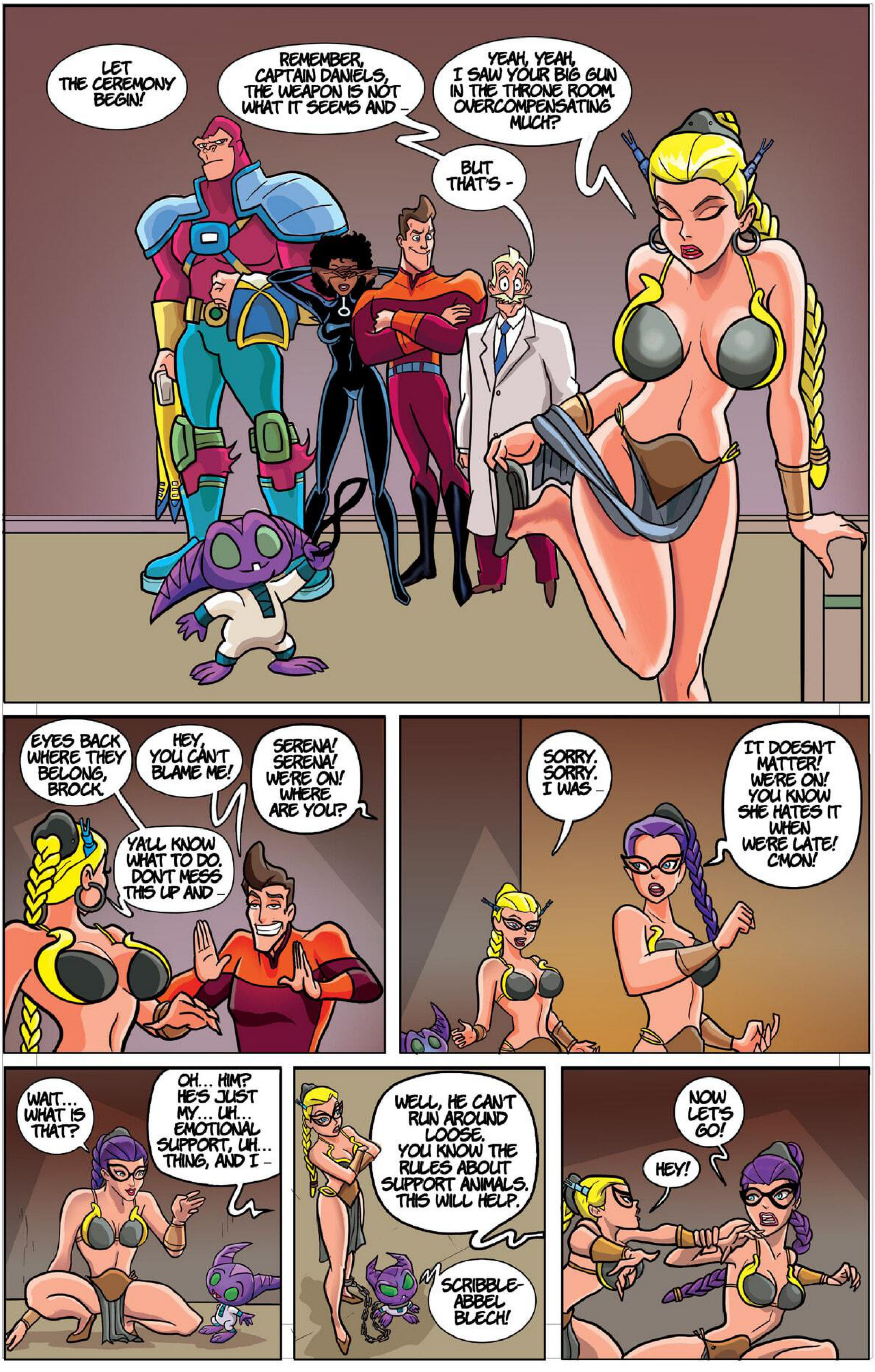

MEANWHILE, ON EARTH:
WHERE. THE. HELL. IS CAPTAIN DANIELS?
SLAVE!
I LIVE TO SERVE, OH CORPULENT ONE.
I TOLD YOU NOT TO USE BIGLY WORDS IN MY PRESENCE.
YES, SIRE.
WHY HAVE I NOT HEARD FROM THAT NASTY WOMAN, CAPTAIN DANIELS, AND HER IDIOT CREW?
DID YOU AUTHORIZE HER INITIAL PAYMENT?
OF COURSE I DID! ORDON ALWAYS PAYS HIS DEBTS TO CONTRACTORS.
AH, WELL, LET ME JUST CHECK...
YES. ALL GOOD.
GET HER ON THE LINE AND -
PRESIDENT-FOR-LIFE ORDON!
THE RED QUEEN HAS HIJACKED OUR VIEW SCREENS AND DATA PORTALS!
LET ME SEE HER.

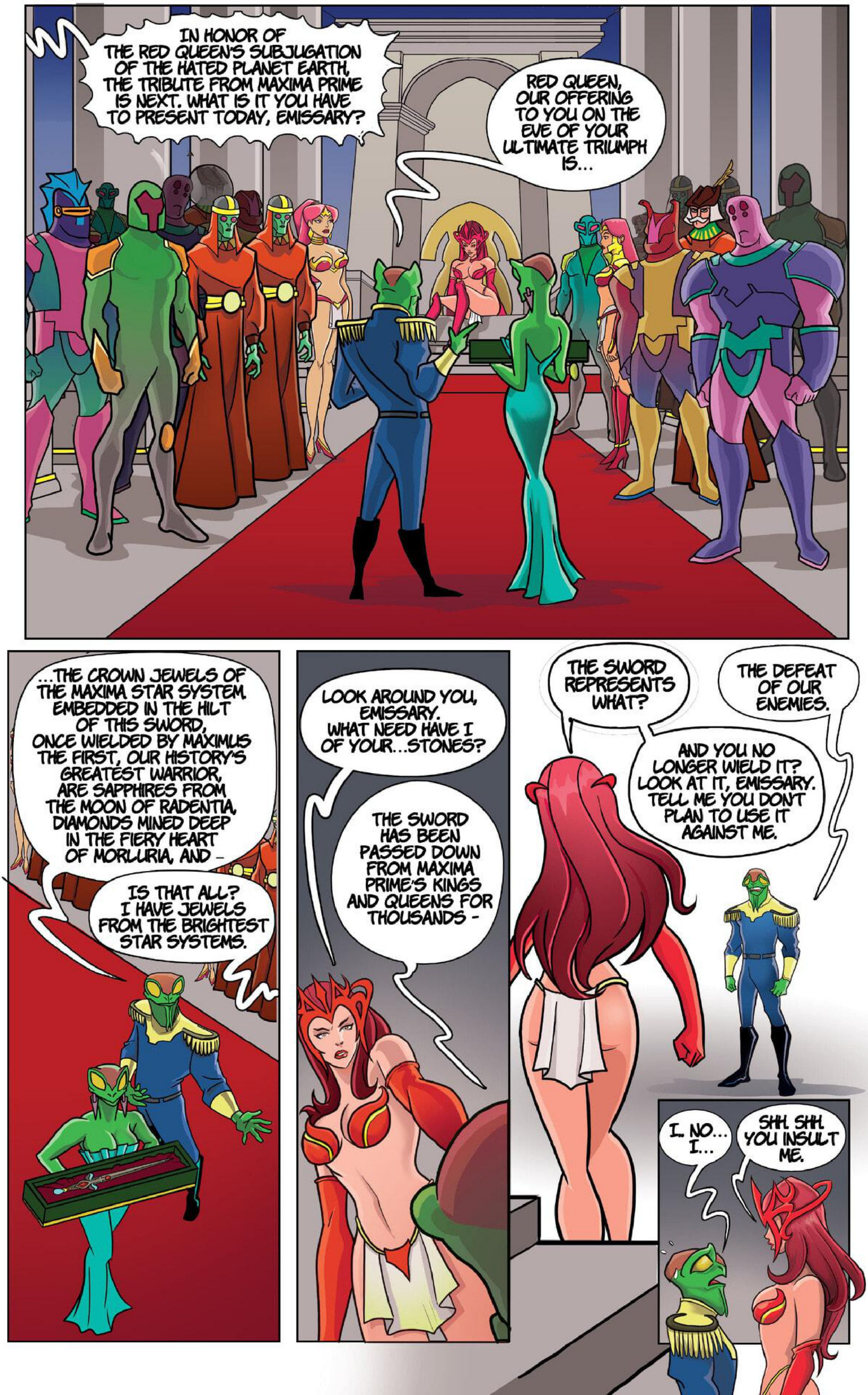

PEOPLE OF EARTH, I BID YOU WELCOME. YOUR LIBERATION IS AT HAND.
FOR TOO LONG, YOU HAVE BEEN ENSLAVED BY AN OPPORTUNIST WHO, UNDER THE GUISE OF SOME MISGUIDED NOTION OF LIBERTY, FLEECES YOUR ONCE PROUD PLANET, STRIPPING YOU OF WEALTH AND PROSPERITY AS EASILY AS HE STRIPS YOU OF YOUR FREEDOMS.
FREEDOMS YOU, YOURSELF, HAVE ABDICATED. FOR THAT, THE GALAXY, REPRESENTED BY THE GENTLE BEINGS ASSEMBLED HERE, CONDEMNS YOU ALONG WITH HIM.
HIS STARSHIPS, CREWED BY YOU, PLUNDER THE KNOWN WORLDS OF THEIR RESOURCES TO FEED HIS AMBITIONS. HE STEALS WHAT HE CANNOT OBTAIN THROUGH NEGOTIATION, AND MAKES PROMISES HE CANNOT KEEP.
THE SENTIENT BEINGS THAT SHARE YOUR GALAXY WILL TOLERATE ORDON'S PRESENCE IN THE BODY POLITIC NO LONGER.
WHAT'S PULLING ON MY...
YOU SEE... I HAVE LEARNED HIS SECRET.
OH, HOW CUTE! C'MERE, YOU -
SQUEEBLE! SQUEEP!
I KNOW HOW HE ROSE TO POWER FOR A SECOND TIME IN 2024 AND HOW HE HAS "LIVED" FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
HEY! COME BACK!

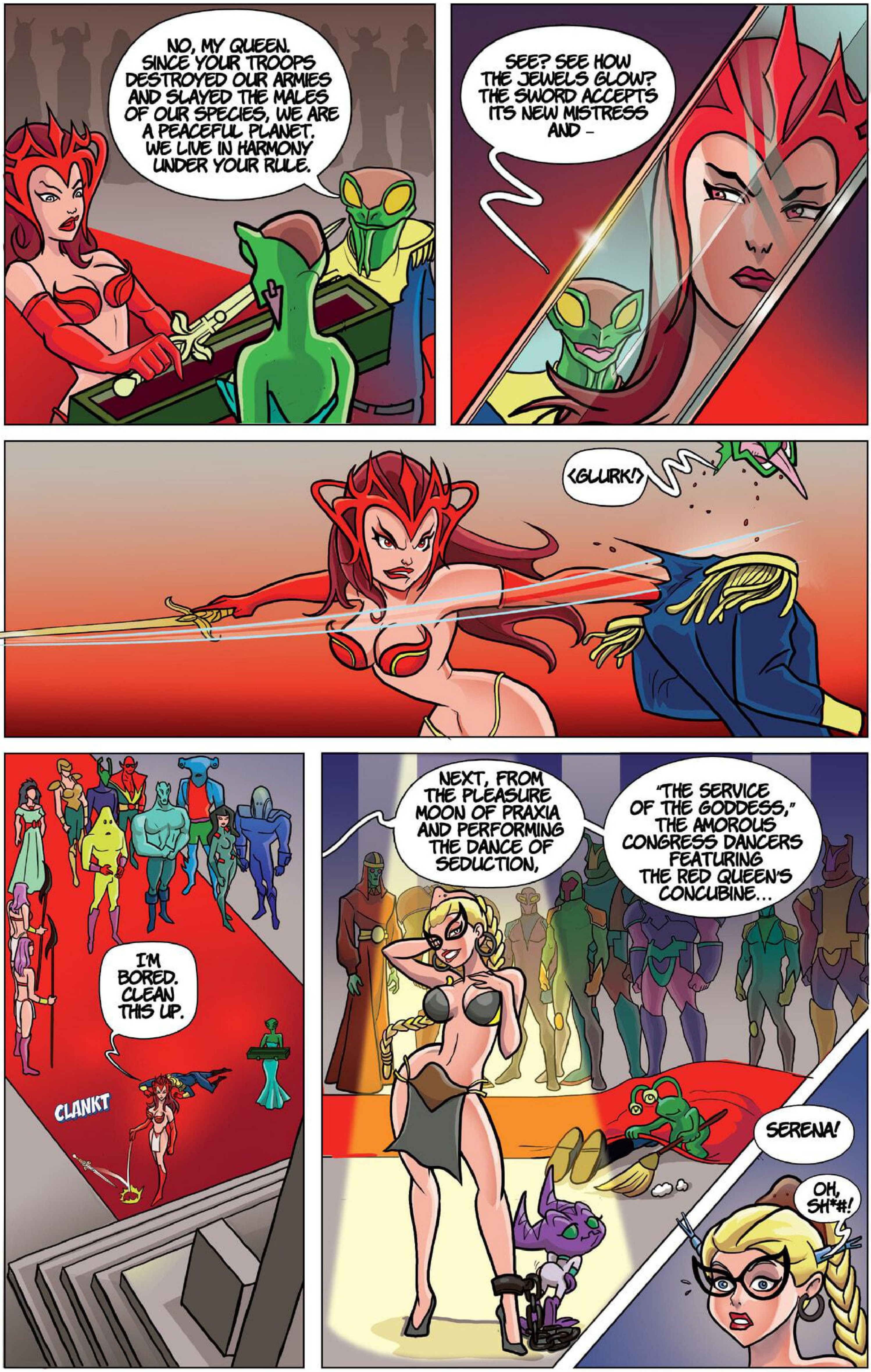

THIS... WEAPON... WILL END HIS RULE.
OOH!
AAAH!

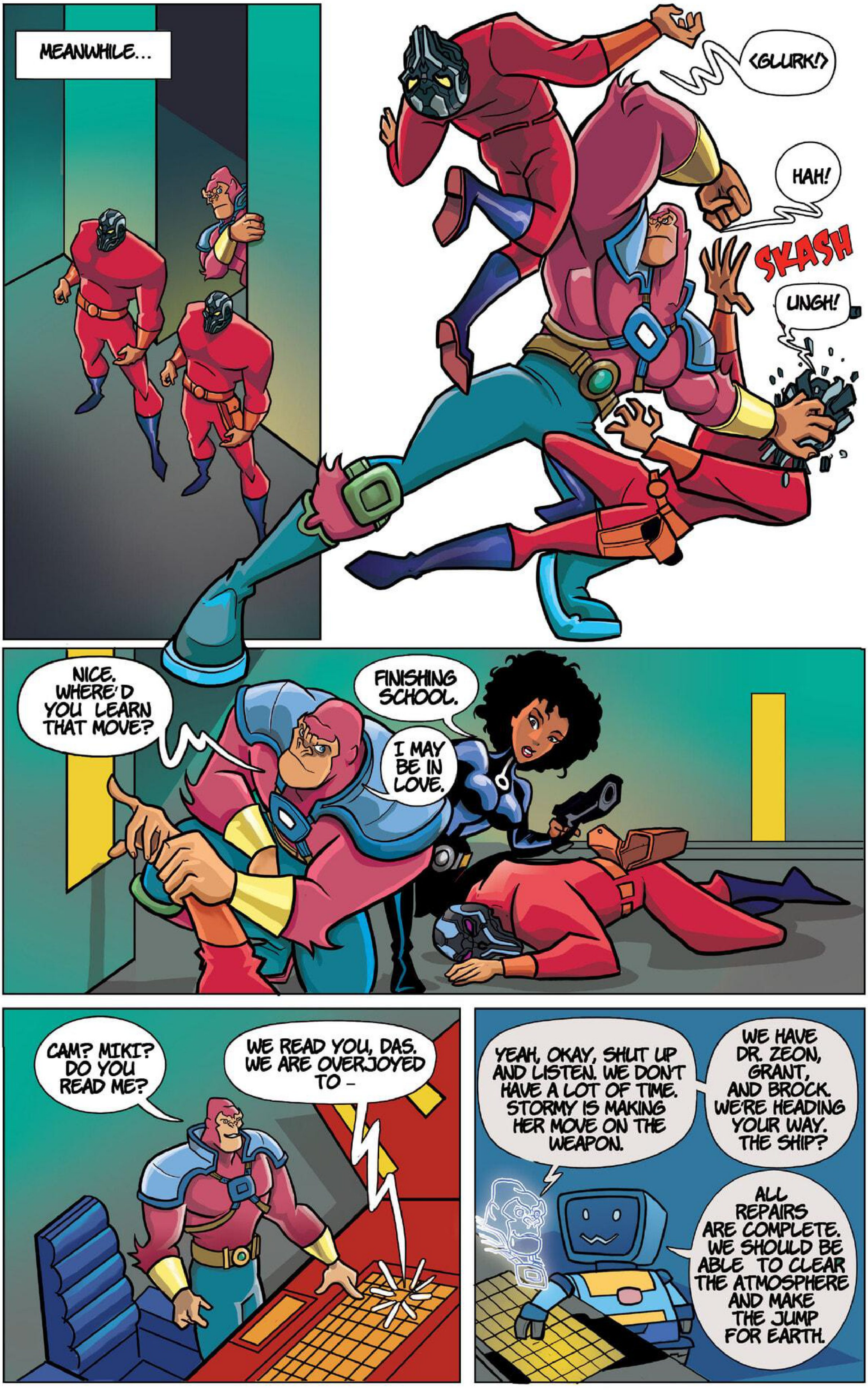

NOW WHERE DID YOU...
AND YOU? THE ONLY THING I CAN OFFER YOU IS MY PITY.
YOUR FAILURE TO DEPOSE HIM CONDEMNS YOU ALONGSIDE HIM.
OH!

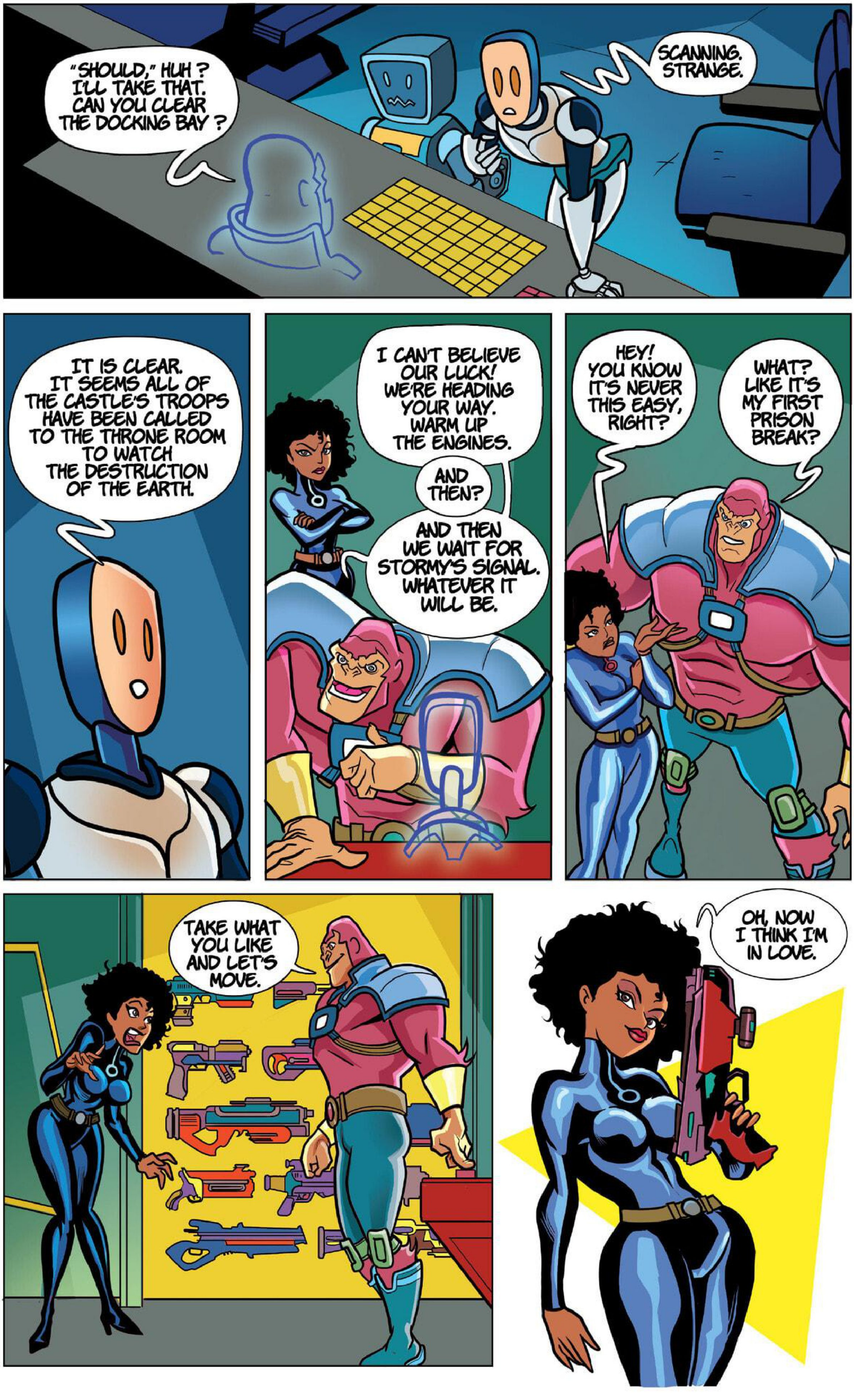

WELCOME, SENTIENT BEINGS, TO THE END OF THE PLANET EARTH!

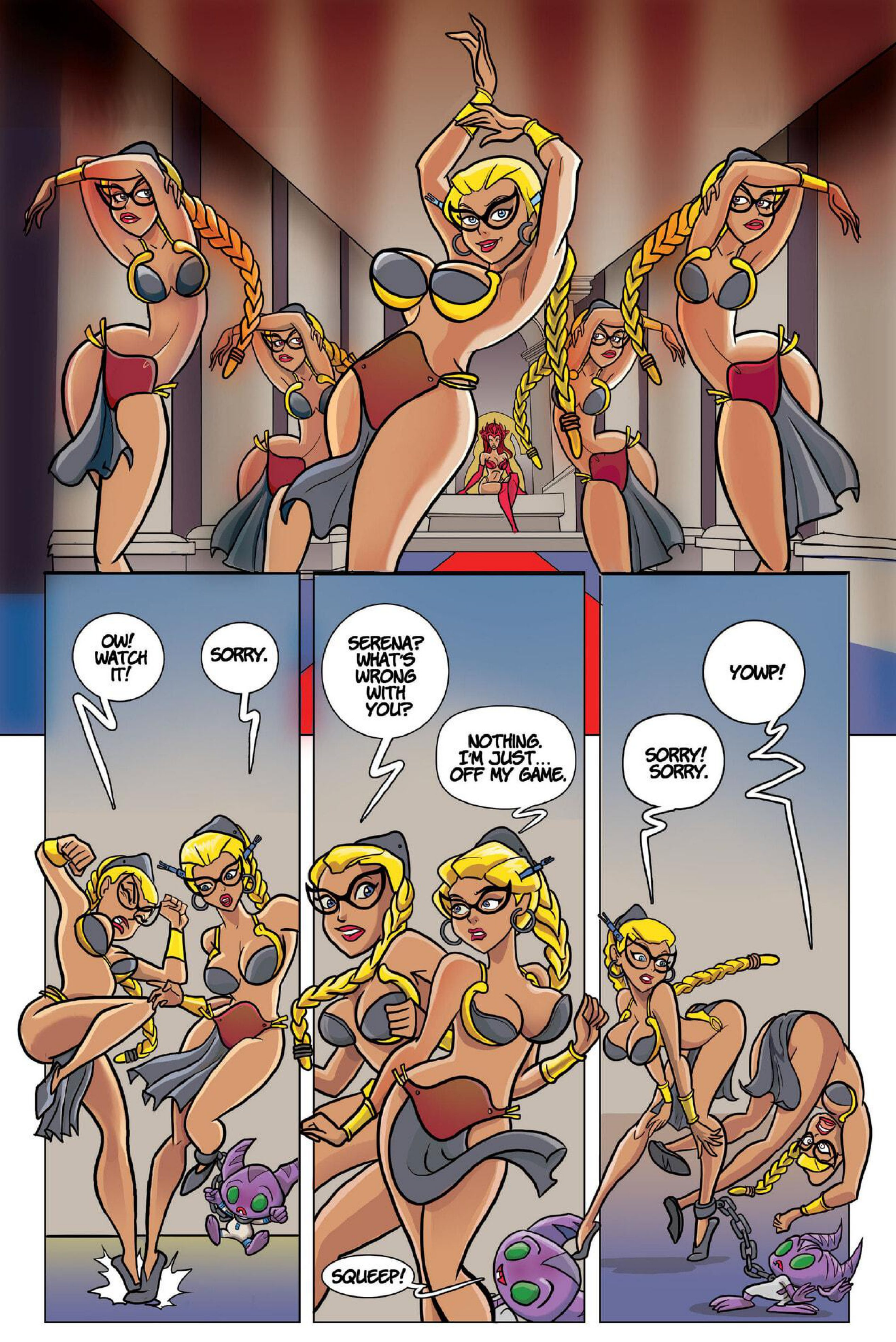

LET THE CEREMONY BEGIN!
REMEMBER, CAPTAIN DANIELS, THE WEAPON IS NOT WHAT IT SEEMS AND –
YEAH, YEAH, I SAW YOUR BIG GUN IN THE THRONE ROOM. OVERCOMPENSATING MUCH?
BUT THAT'S –
EYES BACK WHERE THEY BELONG, BROCK.
HEY, YOU CAN'T BLAME ME!
SERENA! SERENA! WE'RE ON! WHERE ARE YOU?
Y'ALL KNOW WHAT TO DO. DON'T MESS THIS UP AND –
SORRY. SORRY. I WAS –
IT DOESN'T MATTER! WE'RE ON! YOU KNOW SHE HATES IT WHEN WE'RE LATE! C'MON!
WAIT... WHAT IS THAT?
OH... HIM? HE'S JUST MY... UH... EMOTIONAL SUPPORT, UH... THING, AND I –
WELL, HE CAN'T RUN AROUND LOOSE. YOU KNOW THE RULES ABOUT SUPPORT ANIMALS. THIS WILL HELP.
SCRIBBLE-ABBEL BLECH!
NOW LET'S GO!
HEY!

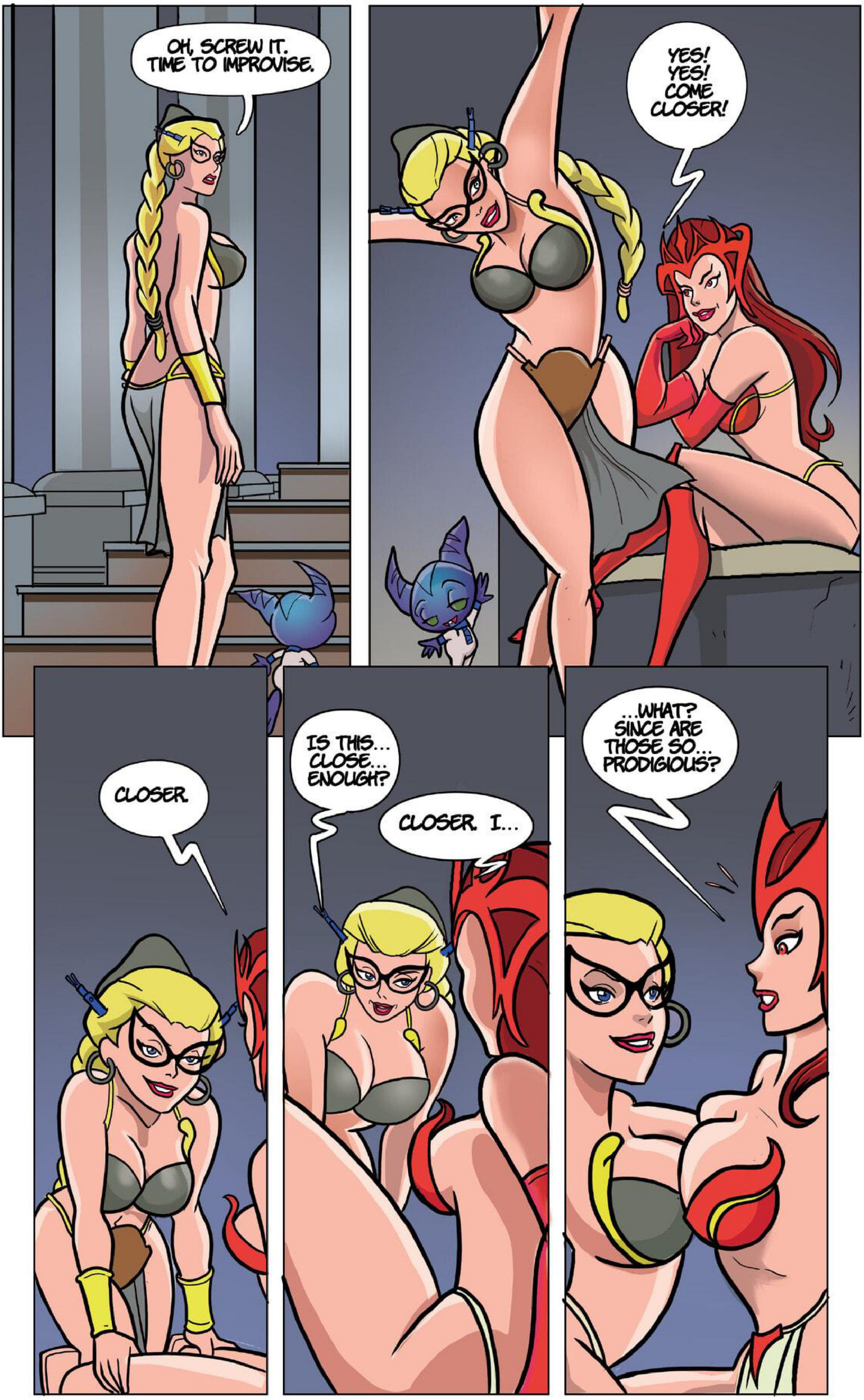

IN HONOR OF THE RED QUEEN'S SUBJUGATION OF THE HATED PLANET EARTH, THE TRIBUTE FROM MAXIMA PRIME IS NEXT. WHAT IS IT YOU HAVE TO PRESENT TODAY, EMISSARY?
RED QUEEN, OUR OFFERING TO YOU ON THE EVE OF YOUR ULTIMATE TRIUMPH IS...
...THE CROWN JEWELS OF THE MAXIMA STAR SYSTEM EMBEDDED IN THE HILT OF THIS SWORD, ONCE WIELDED BY MAXIMUS THE FIRST, OUR HISTORY'S GREATEST WARRIOR, ARE SAPPHIRES FROM THE MOON OF RADENTIA, DIAMONDS MINED DEEP IN THE FIERY HEART OF MORLURIA, AND -
IS THAT ALL? I HAVE JEWELS FROM THE BRIGHTEST STAR SYSTEMS.
LOOK AROUND YOU, EMISSARY. WHAT NEED HAVE I OF YOUR...STONES?
THE SWORD HAS BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM MAXIMA PRIME'S KINGS AND QUEENS FOR THOUSANDS -
THE SWORD REPRESENTS WHAT?
THE DEFEAT OF OUR ENEMIES.
AND YOU NO LONGER WIELD IT? LOOK AT IT, EMISSARY. TELL ME YOU DONT PLAN TO USE IT AGAINST ME.
I.. NO... I...
SHH. SHH. YOU INSULT ME.

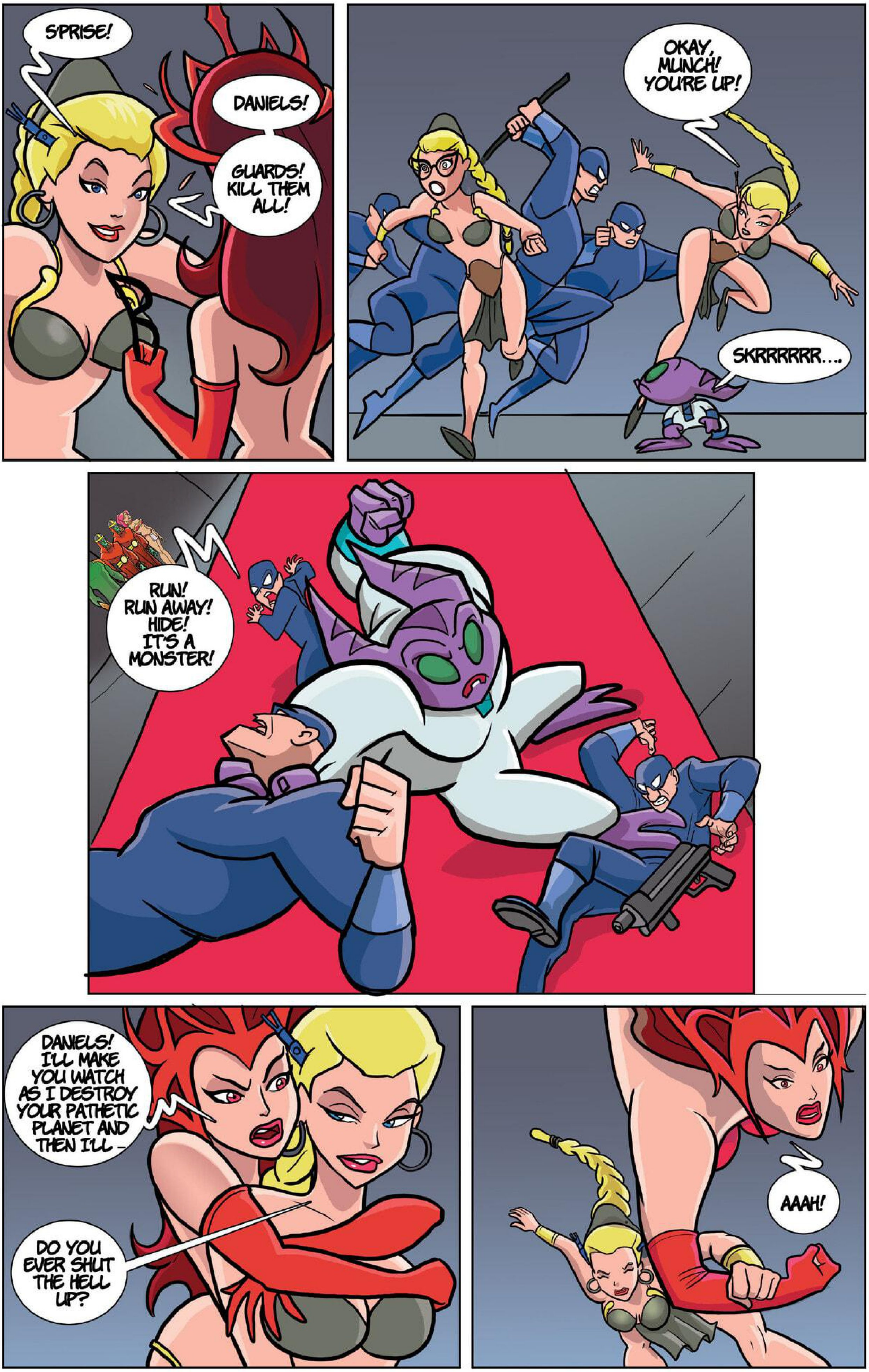

NO, MY QUEEN. SINCE YOUR TROOPS DESTROYED OUR ARMIES AND SLAYED THE MALES OF OUR SPECIES, WE ARE A PEACEFUL PLANET. WE LIVE IN HARMONY UNDER YOUR RULE.
SEE? SEE HOW THE JEWELS GLOW? THE SWORD ACCEPTS ITS NEW MISTRESS AND –
<GLURK!>
I'M BORED. CLEAN THIS UP.
CLANKT
NEXT, FROM THE PLEASURE MOON OF PRAXIA AND PERFORMING THE DANCE OF SEDUCTION,
"THE SERVICE OF THE GODDESS," THE AMOROUS CONGRESS DANCERS FEATURING THE RED QUEEN'S CONCUBINE...
SERENA!
OH, SH*#!

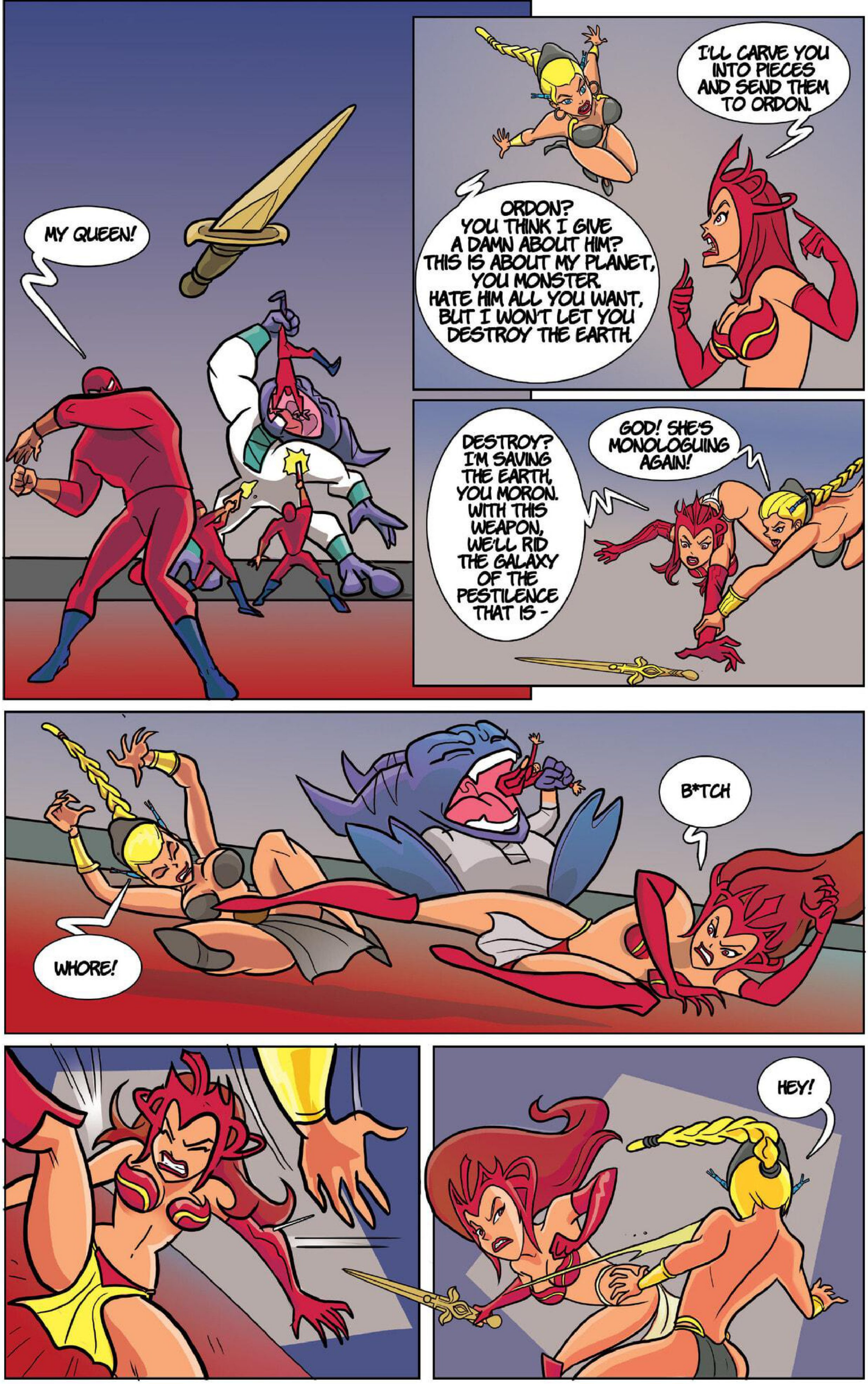

MEANWHILE...
<GLURK!>
HAH!
SKASH
UNGH!
NICE. WHERE'D YOU LEARN THAT MOVE?
FINISHING SCHOOL.
I MAY BE IN LOVE.
CAM? MIKI? DO YOU READ ME?
WE READ YOU, DAS. WE ARE OVERJOYED TO –
YEAH, OKAY, SHUT UP AND LISTEN. WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME. STORMY IS MAKING HER MOVE ON THE WEAPON.
WE HAVE DR. ZEON, GRANT, AND BROCK. WE'RE HEADING YOUR WAY. THE SHIP?
ALL REPAIRS ARE COMPLETE. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO CLEAR THE ATMOSPHERE AND MAKE THE JUMP FOR EARTH.

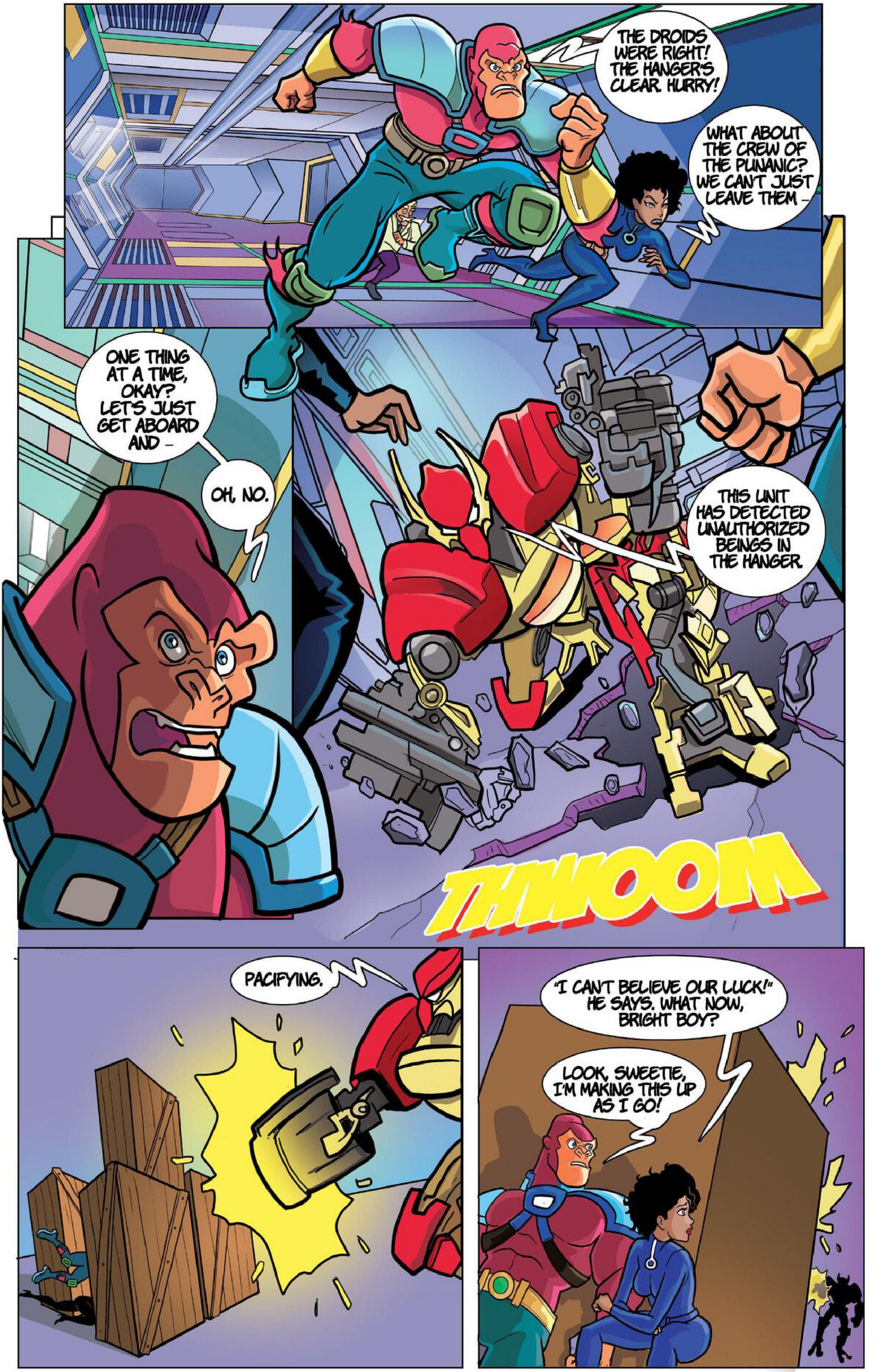

"SHOULD," HUH ? I'LL TAKE THAT. CAN YOU CLEAR THE DOCKING BAY ?
SCANNING. STRANGE.
IT IS CLEAR. IT SEEMS ALL OF THE CASTLE'S TROOPS HAVE BEEN CALLED TO THE THRONE ROOM TO WATCH THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EARTH.
I CAN'T BELIEVE OUR LUCK! WE'RE HEADING YOUR WAY. WARM UP THE ENGINES.
AND THEN?
AND THEN WE WAIT FOR STORMY'S SIGNAL. WHATEVER IT WILL BE.
HEY! YOU KNOW IT'S NEVER THIS EASY, RIGHT?
WHAT? LIKE IT'S MY FIRST PRISON BREAK?
TAKE WHAT YOU LIKE AND LET'S MOVE.
OH, NOW I THINK I'M IN LOVE.

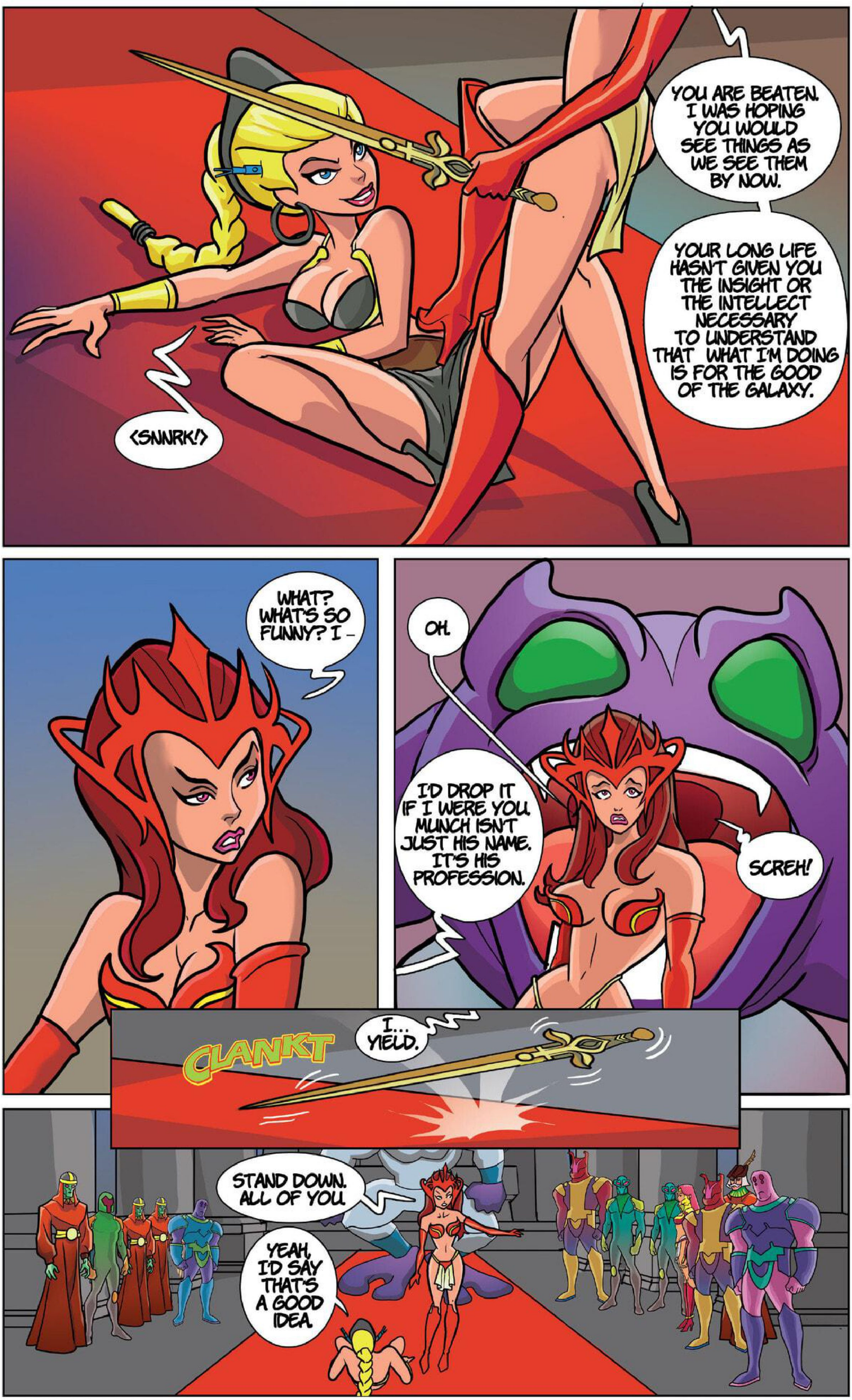

OW! WATCH IT!
SORRY.
SERENA? WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?
NOTHING. I'M JUST... OFF MY GAME.
SQUEEP!
YOWP!
SORRY! SORRY.

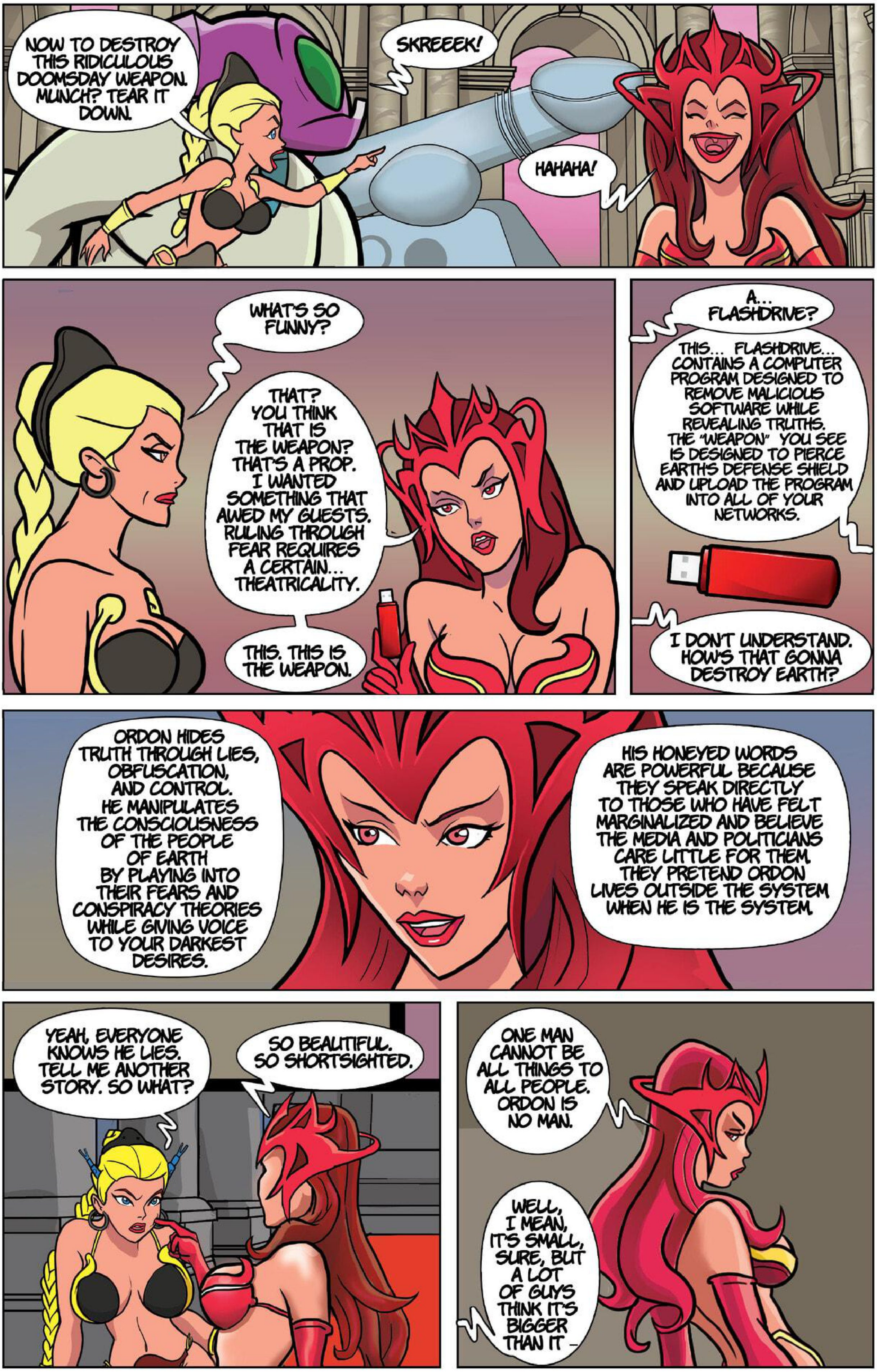

OH, SCREW IT. TIME TO IMPROVISE.
YES! YES! COME CLOSER!
CLOSER.
IS THIS... CLOSE... ENOUGH?
CLOSER. I...
...WHAT? SINCE ARE THOSE SO... PRODIGIOUS?

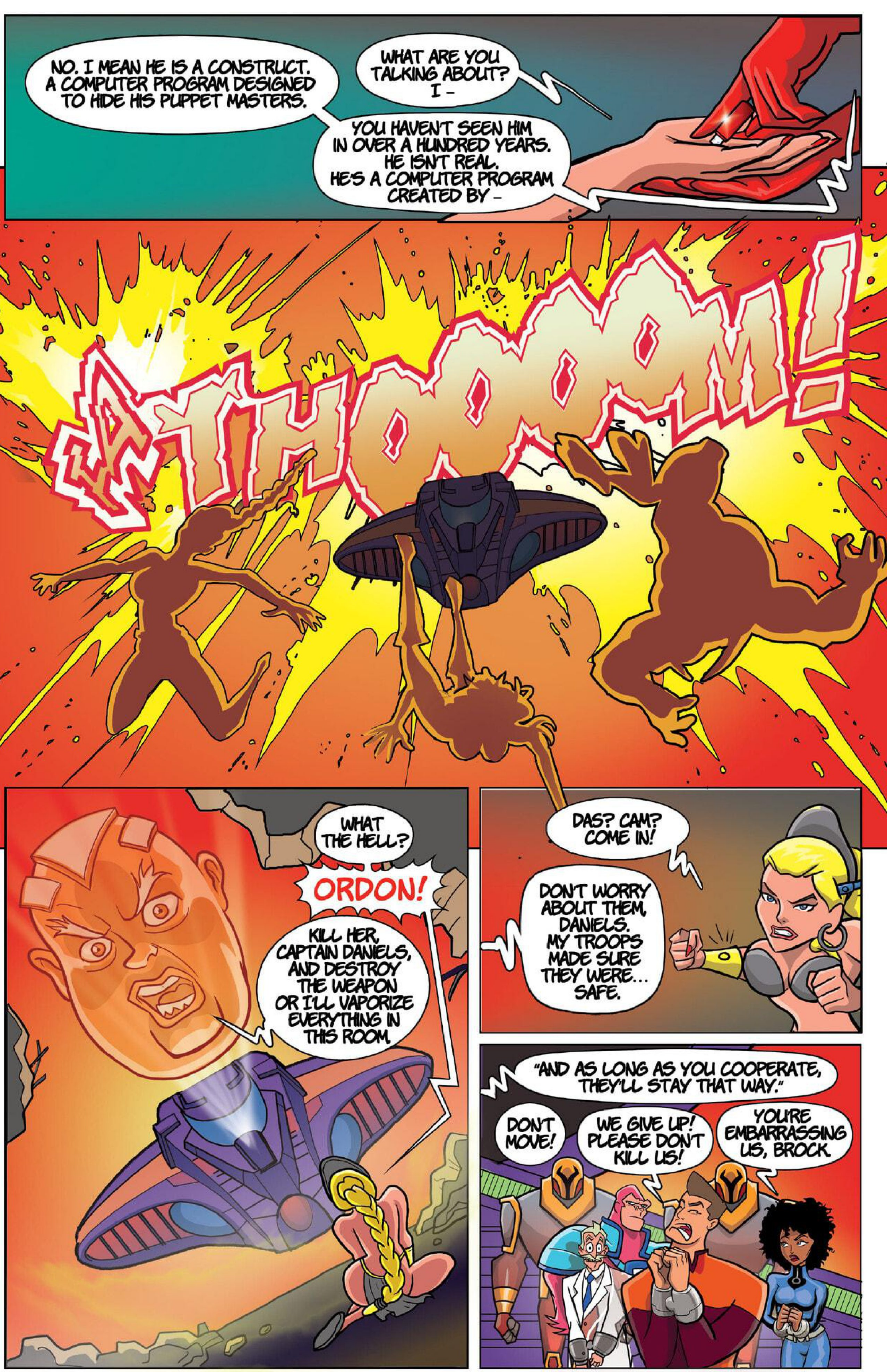

S'PRISE!
DANIELS!
GUARDS! KILL THEM ALL!
OKAY, MUNCH! YOU'RE UP!
SKRRRRRR....
RUN! RUN AWAY! HIDE! IT'S A MONSTER!
DANIELS! I'LL MAKE YOU WATCH AS I DESTROY YOUR PATHETIC PLANET AND THEN I'LL –
DO YOU EVER SHUT THE HELL UP?
AAAH!

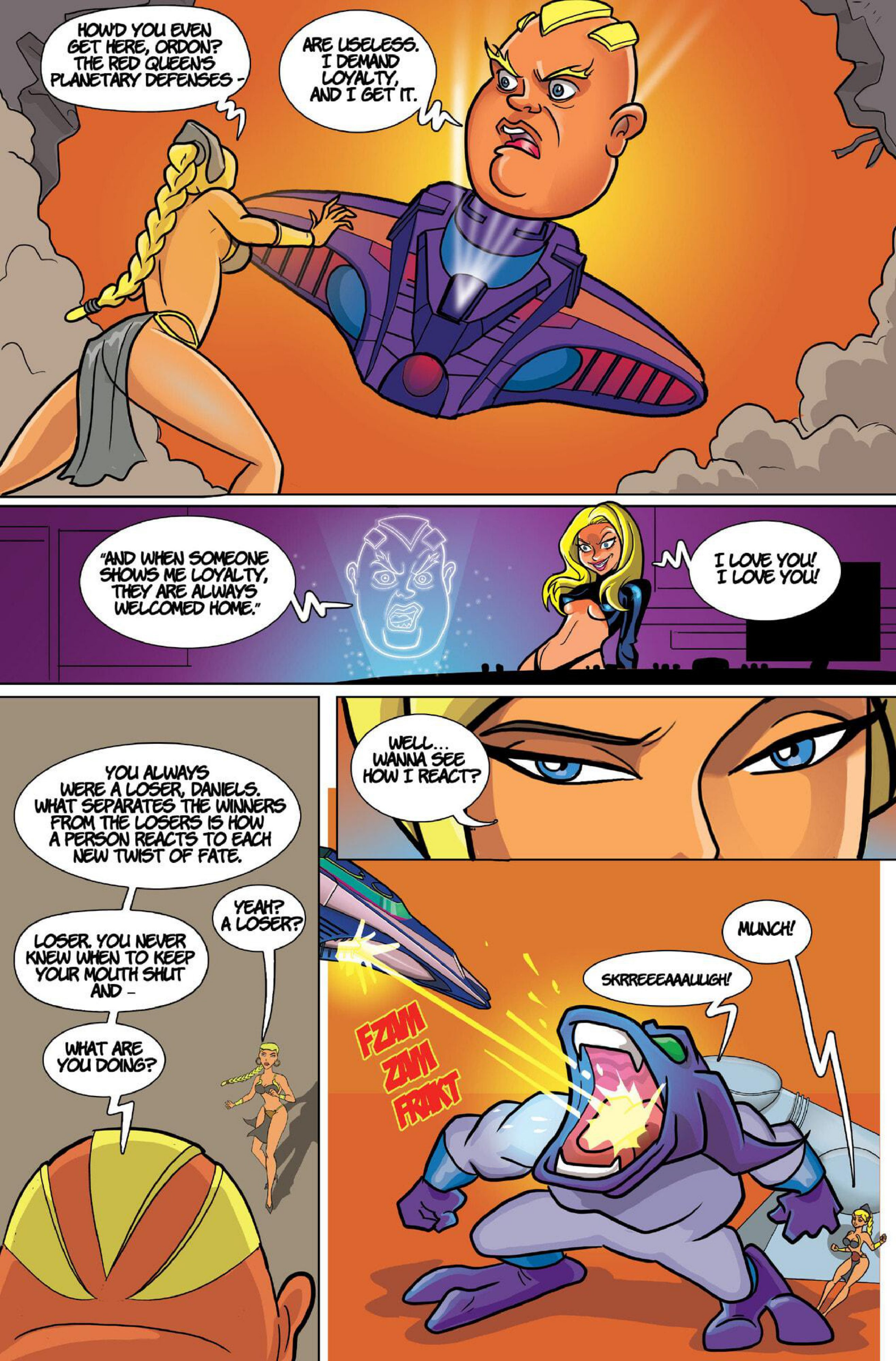

MY QUEEN!
I'LL CARVE YOU INTO PIECES AND SEND THEM TO ORDON.
ORDON? YOU THINK I GIVE A DAMN ABOUT HIM? THIS IS ABOUT MY PLANET, YOU MONSTER. HATE HIM ALL YOU WANT, BUT I WON'T LET YOU DESTROY THE EARTH.
DESTROY? I'M SAVING THE EARTH, YOU MORON. WITH THIS WEAPON, WE'LL RID THE GALAXY OF THE PESTILENCE THAT IS -
GOD! SHE'S MONOLOGUING AGAIN!
WHORE!
B*TCH
HEY!

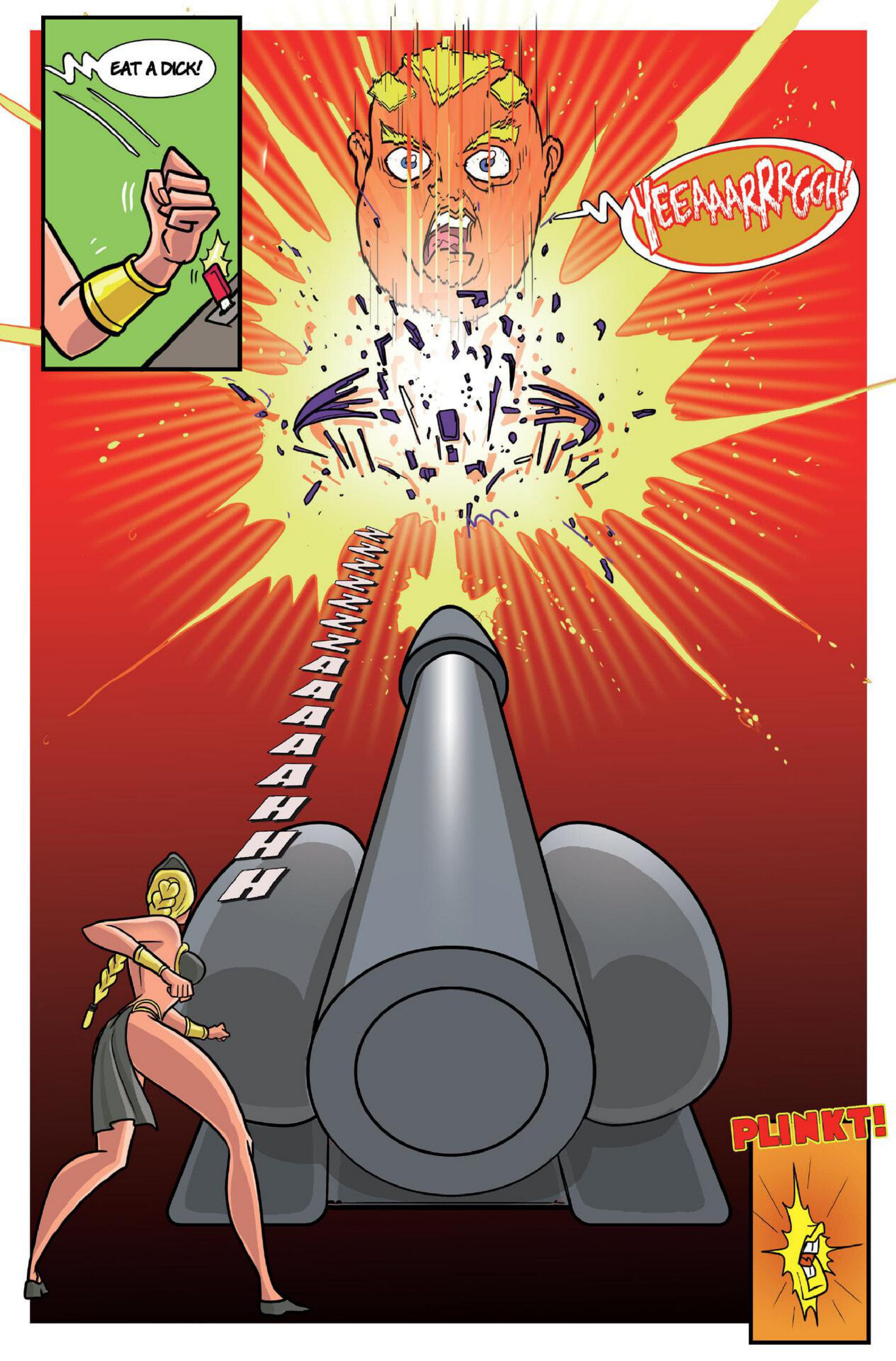

THE DROIDS WERE RIGHT! THE HANGER'S CLEAR. HURRY!
WHAT ABOUT THE CREW OF THE PUNANIC? WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE THEM –
ONE THING AT A TIME, OKAY? LET'S JUST GET ABOARD AND –
OH, NO.
THIS UNIT HAS DETECTED UNAUTHORIZED BEINGS IN THE HANGER.
THWOOM
PACIFYING.
"I CAN'T BELIEVE OUR LUCK!" HE SAYS. WHAT NOW, BRIGHT BOY?
LOOK, SWEETIE, I'M MAKING THIS UP AS I GO!

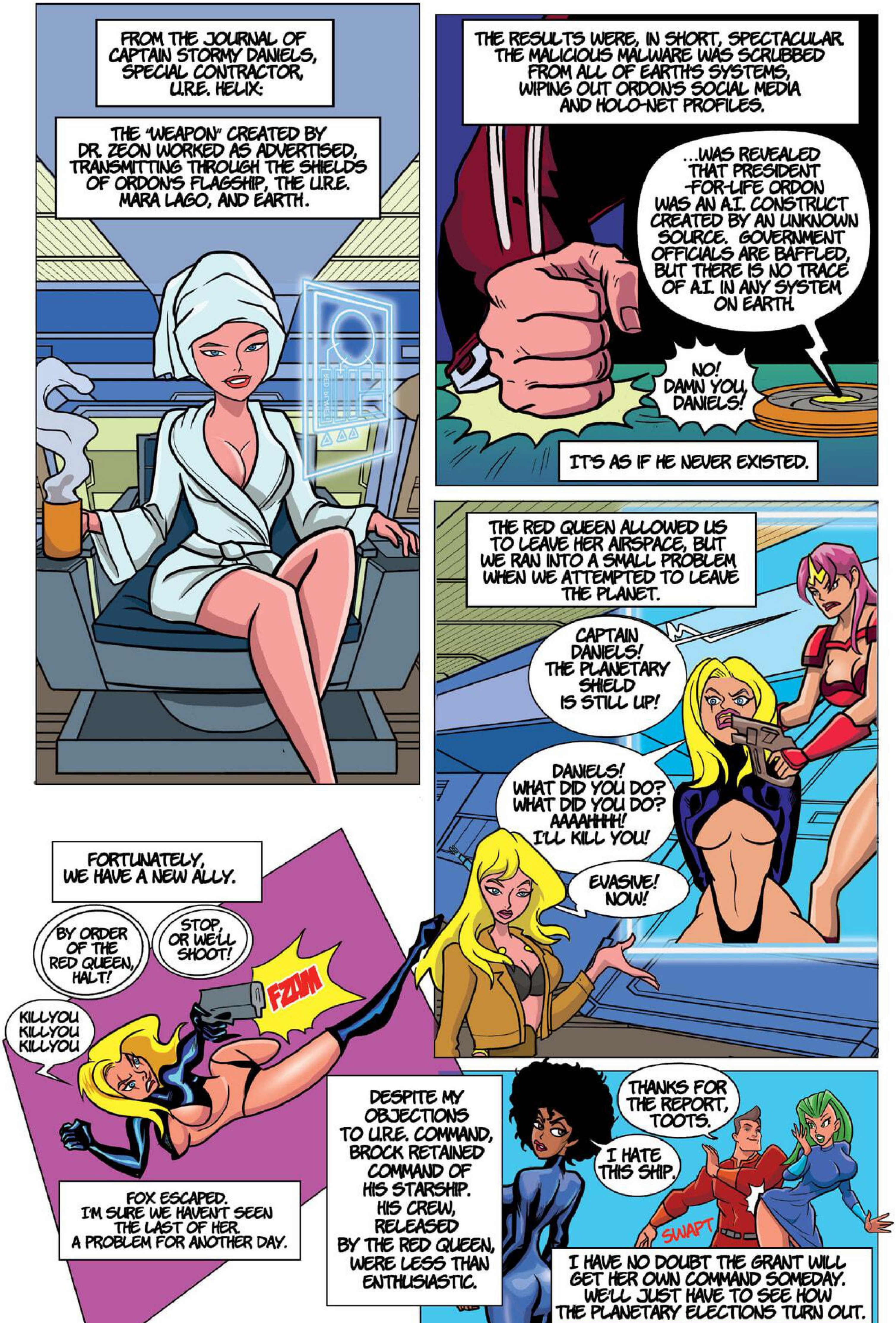

YOU ARE BEATEN. I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD SEE THINGS AS WE SEE THEM BY NOW.
YOUR LONG LIFE HASN'T GIVEN YOU THE INSIGHT OR THE INTELLECT NECESSARY TO UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT I'M DOING IS FOR THE GOOD OF THE GALAXY.
<SNNRK!>
WHAT? WHAT'S SO FUNNY? I –
OH.
I'D DROP IT IF I WERE YOU. MUNCH ISN'T JUST HIS NAME. IT'S HIS PROFESSION.
SCREH!
CLANKT
I... YIELD.
STAND DOWN. ALL OF YOU.
YEAH, I'D SAY THAT'S A GOOD IDEA.

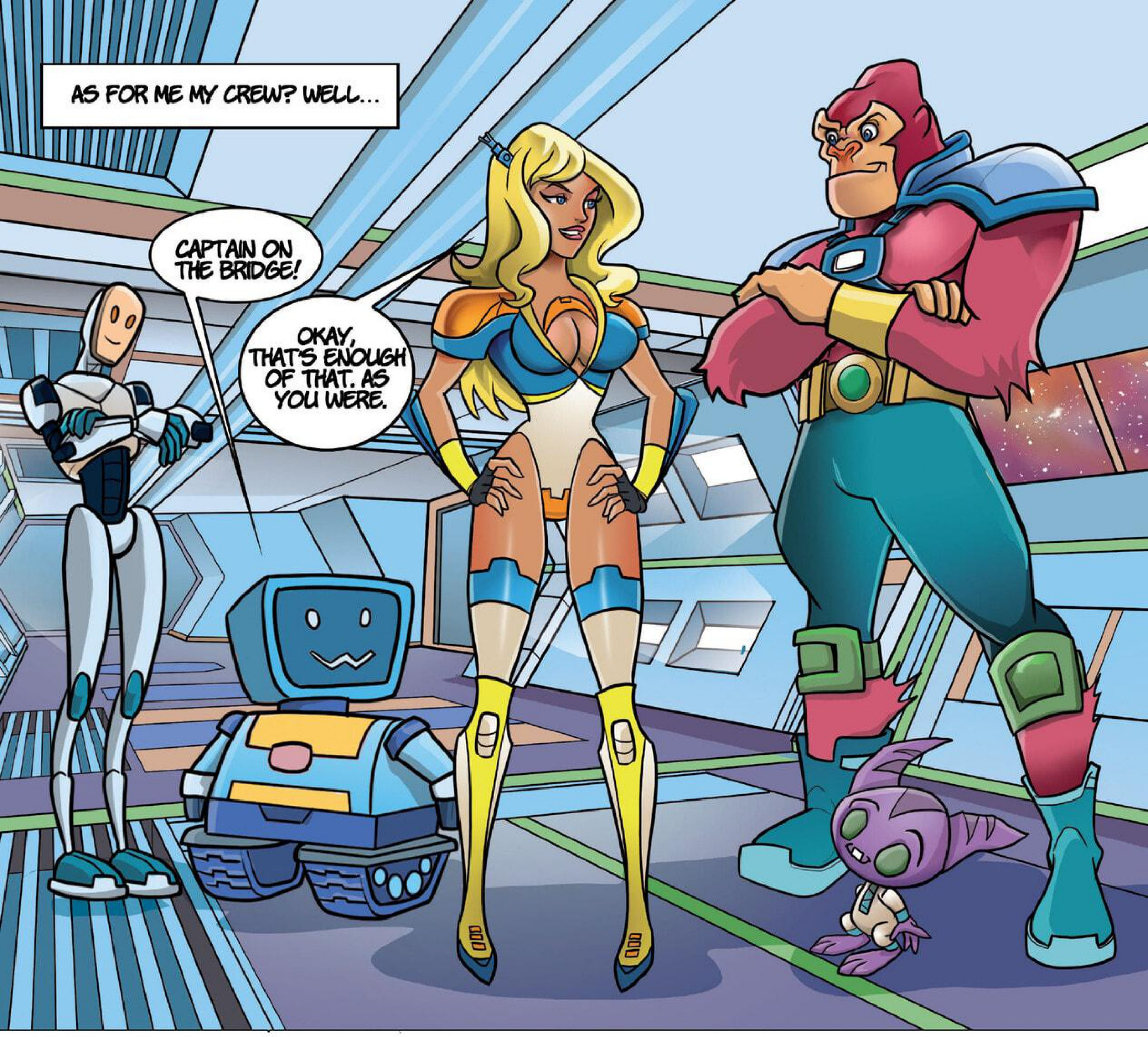

NOW TO DESTROY THIS RIDICULOUS DOOMSDAY WEAPON. MUNCH? TEAR IT DOWN.
SKREEEK!
HAHAHA!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
THAT? YOU THINK THAT IS THE WEAPON? THAT'S A PROP. I WANTED SOMETHING THAT AWED MY GUESTS. RULING THROUGH FEAR REQUIRES A CERTAIN... THEATRICALITY.
THIS. THIS IS THE WEAPON.
A... FLASHDRIVE?
THIS... FLASHDRIVE... CONTAINS A COMPUTER PROGRAM DESIGNED TO REMOVE MALICIOUS SOFTWARE WHILE REVEALING TRUTHS. THE "WEAPON" YOU SEE IS DESIGNED TO PIERCE EARTH'S DEFENSE SHIELD AND UPLOAD THE PROGRAM INTO ALL OF YOUR NETWORKS.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HOW'S THAT GONNA DESTROY EARTH?
ORDON HIDES TRUTH THROUGH LIES, OBFUSCATION, AND CONTROL. HE MANIPULATES THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE PEOPLE OF EARTH BY PLAYING INTO THEIR FEARS AND CONSPIRACY THEORIES WHILE GIVING VOICE TO YOUR DARKEST DESIRES.
HIS HONEYED WORDS ARE POWERFUL BECAUSE THEY SPEAK DIRECTLY TO THOSE WHO HAVE FELT MARGINALIZED AND BELIEVE THE MEDIA AND POLITICIANS CARE LITTLE FOR THEM. THEY PRETEND ORDON LIVES OUTSIDE THE SYSTEM WHEN HE IS THE SYSTEM.
YEAH, EVERYONE KNOWS HE LIES. TELL ME ANOTHER STORY. SO WHAT?
SO BEAUTIFUL. SO SHORTSIGHTED.
ONE MAN CANNOT BE ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE. ORDON IS NO MAN.
WELL, I MEAN, IT'S SMALL, SURE, BUT A LOT OF GUYS THINK IT'S BIGGER THAN IT –

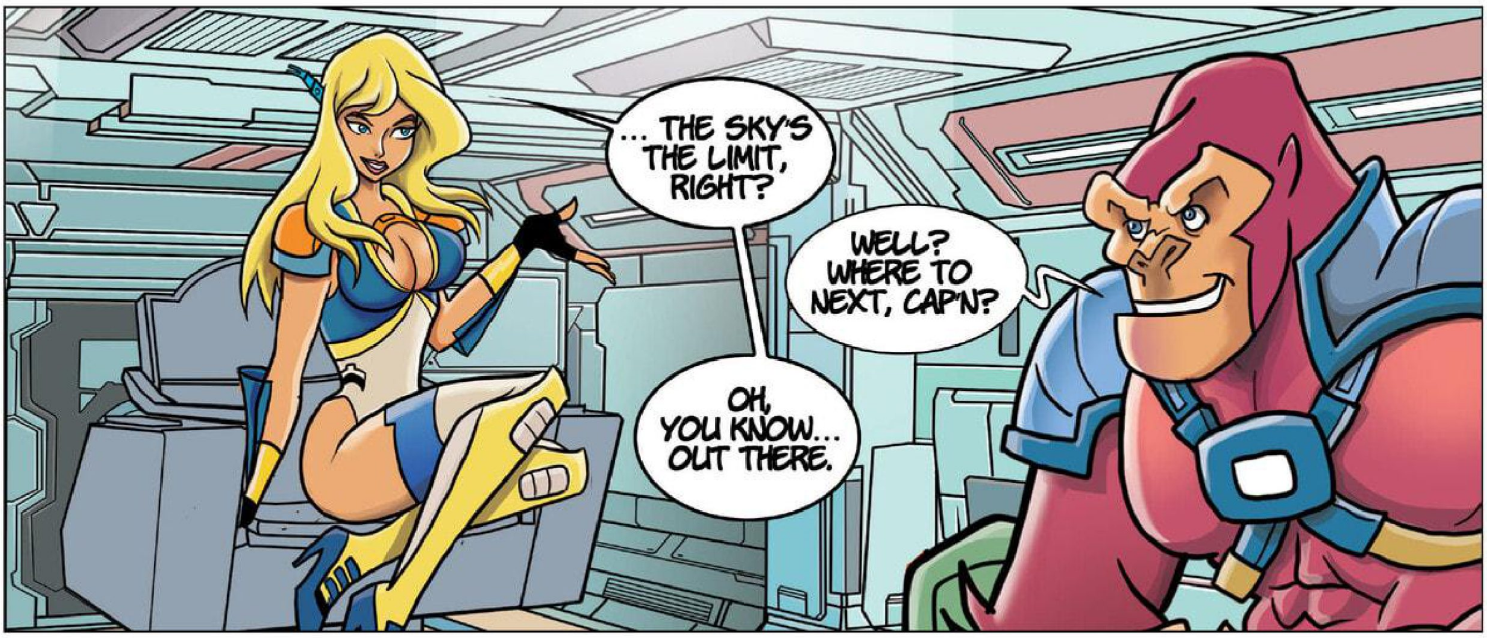

NO. I MEAN HE IS A CONSTRUCT. A COMPUTER PROGRAM DESIGNED TO HIDE HIS PUPPET MASTERS.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? I –
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM IN OVER A HUNDRED YEARS. HE ISN'T REAL. HE'S A COMPUTER PROGRAM CREATED BY –
KATHOOOOM!
WHAT THE HELL?
ORDON!
KILL HER, CAPTAIN DANIELS, AND DESTROY THE WEAPON OR I'LL VAPORIZE EVERYTHING IN THIS ROOM.
DAS? CAM? COME IN!
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM, DANIELS. MY TROOPS MADE SURE THEY WERE… SAFE.
"AND AS LONG AS YOU COOPERATE, THEY'LL STAY THAT WAY."
DON'T MOVE!
WE GIVE UP! PLEASE DON'T KILL US!
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING US, BROCK.

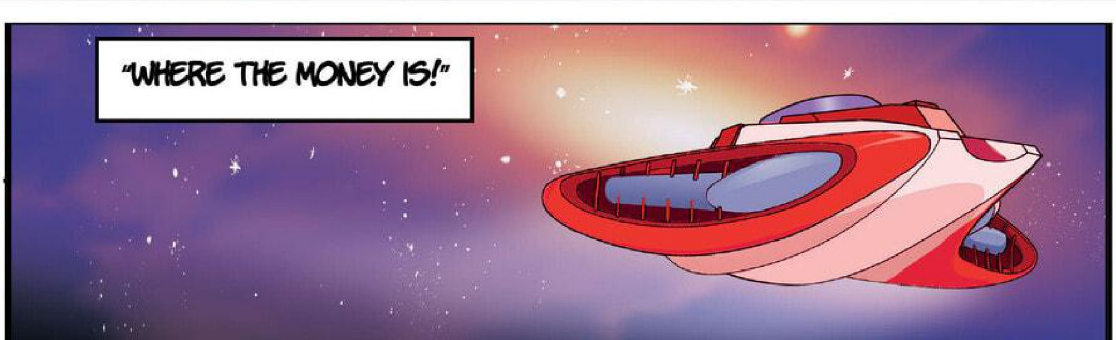

HOW'D YOU EVEN GET HERE, ORDON? THE RED QUEEN'S PLANETARY DEFENSES -
ARE USELESS. I DEMAND LOYALTY, AND I GET IT.
"AND WHEN SOMEONE SHOWS ME LOYALTY, THEY ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED HOME."
I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU!
YOU ALWAYS WERE A LOSER, DANIELS. WHAT SEPARATES THE WINNERS FROM THE LOSERS IS HOW A PERSON REACTS TO EACH NEW TWIST OF FATE.
YEAH? A LOSER?
LOSER. YOU NEVER KNEW WHEN TO KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT AND -
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WELL... WANNA SEE HOW I REACT?
FZAM ZAM FRAKT
SKRREEEAAAULGH!
MUNCH!


EAT A DICK!
YEEAAARRRGGH!
NNNNNNNAAAAAHHH
PLINKT!

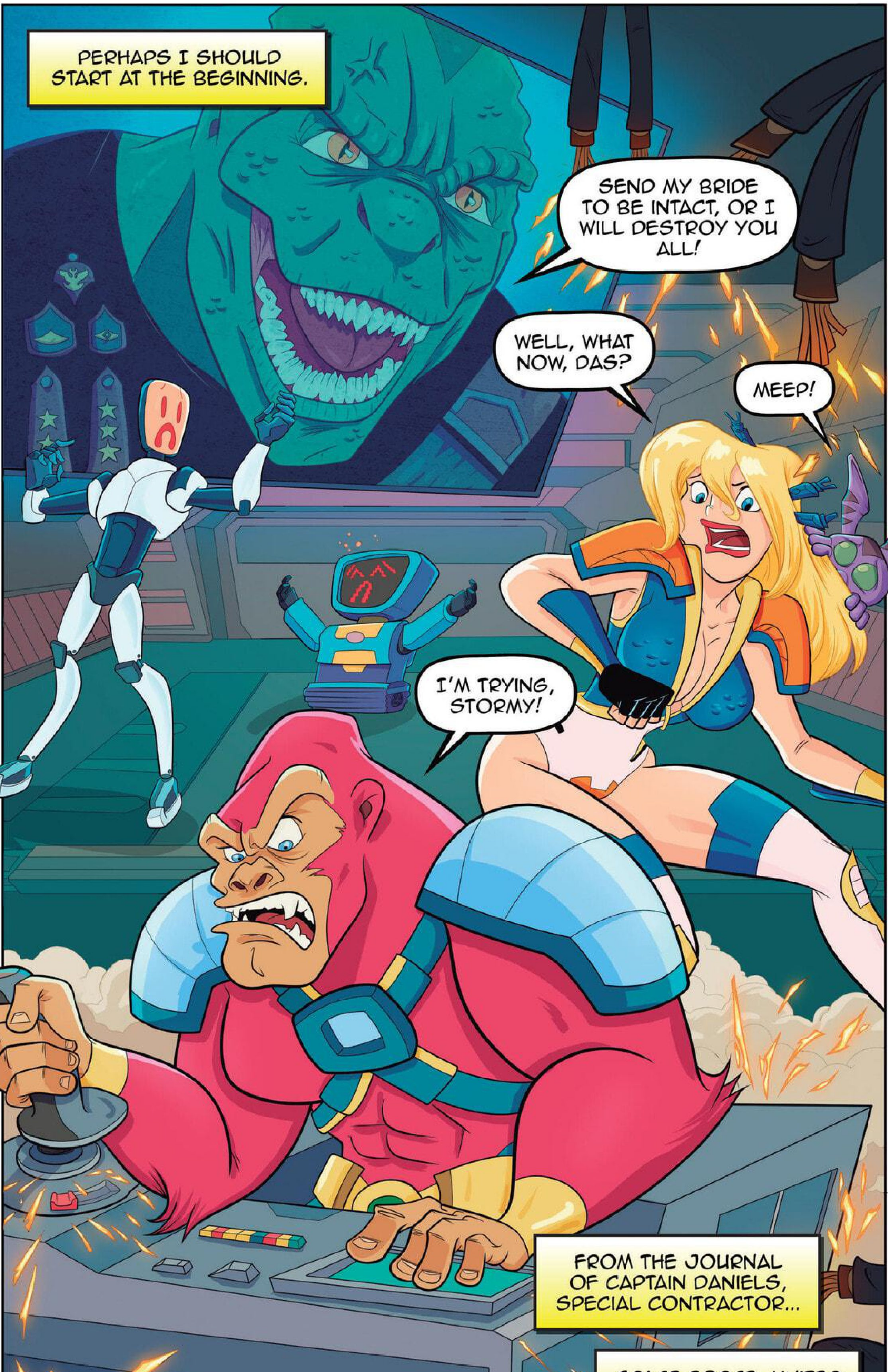

FROM THE JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN STORMY DANIELS, SPECIAL CONTRACTOR, U.R.E. HELIX:
THE "WEAPON" CREATED BY DR. ZEON WORKED AS ADVERTISED, TRANSMITTING THROUGH THE SHIELDS OF ORDON'S FLAGSHIP, THE U.R.E. MARA LAGO, AND EARTH.
THE RESULTS WERE, IN SHORT, SPECTACULAR. THE MALICIOUS MALWARE WAS SCRUBBED FROM ALL OF EARTH'S SYSTEMS, WIPING OUT ORDON'S SOCIAL MEDIA AND HOLO-NET PROFILES.
...WAS REVEALED THAT PRESIDENT -FOR-LIFE ORDON WAS AN A.I. CONSTRUCT CREATED BY AN UNKNOWN SOURCE. GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE BAFFLED, BUT THERE IS NO TRACE OF A.I. IN ANY SYSTEM ON EARTH.
NO! DAMN YOU, DANIELS!
IT'S AS IF HE NEVER EXISTED.
THE RED QUEEN ALLOWED US TO LEAVE HER AIRSPACE, BUT WE RAN INTO A SMALL PROBLEM WHEN WE ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE THE PLANET.
CAPTAIN DANIELS! THE PLANETARY SHIELD IS STILL UP!
DANIELS! WHAT DID YOU DO? WHAT DID YOU DO? AAAAHHHH! I'LL KILL YOU!
EVASIVE! NOW!
FORTUNATELY, WE HAVE A NEW ALLY.
BY ORDER OF THE RED QUEEN, HALT!
STOP, OR WE'LL SHOOT!
FZUM
KILLYOU KILLYOU KILLYOU
FOX ESCAPED. I'M SURE WE HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF HER. A PROBLEM FOR ANOTHER DAY.
DESPITE MY OBJECTIONS TO U.R.E. COMMAND, BROCK RETAINED COMMAND OF HIS STARSHIP. HIS CREW, RELEASED BY THE RED QUEEN, WERE LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC.
THANKS FOR THE REPORT, TOOTS.
I HATE THIS SHIP.
SWAPT
I HAVE NO DOUBT THE GRANT WILL GET HER OWN COMMAND SOMEDAY. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO SEE HOW THE PLANETARY ELECTIONS TURN OUT.

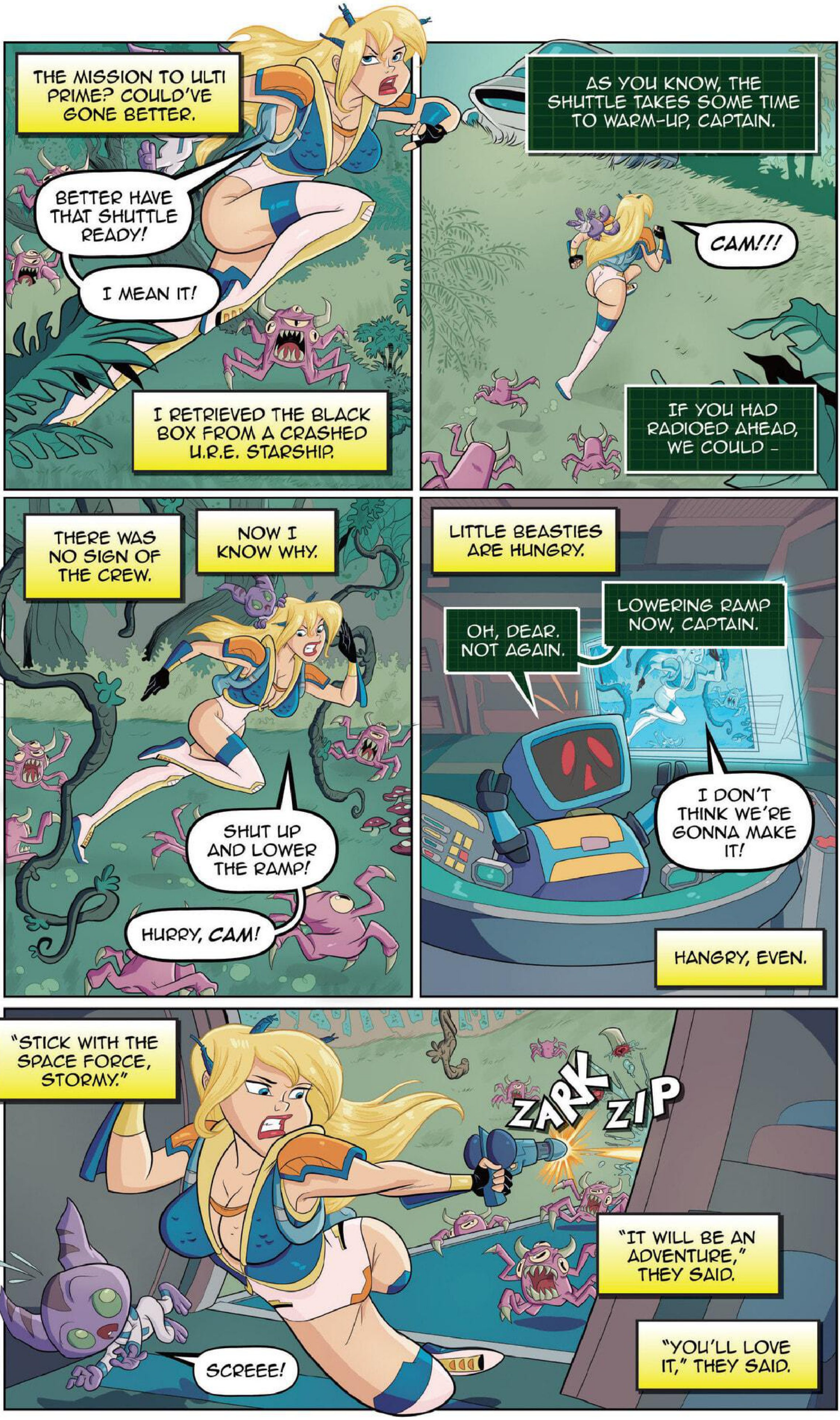

AS FOR ME MY CREW? WELL...
CAPTAIN ON THE BRIDGE!
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT. AS YOU WERE.

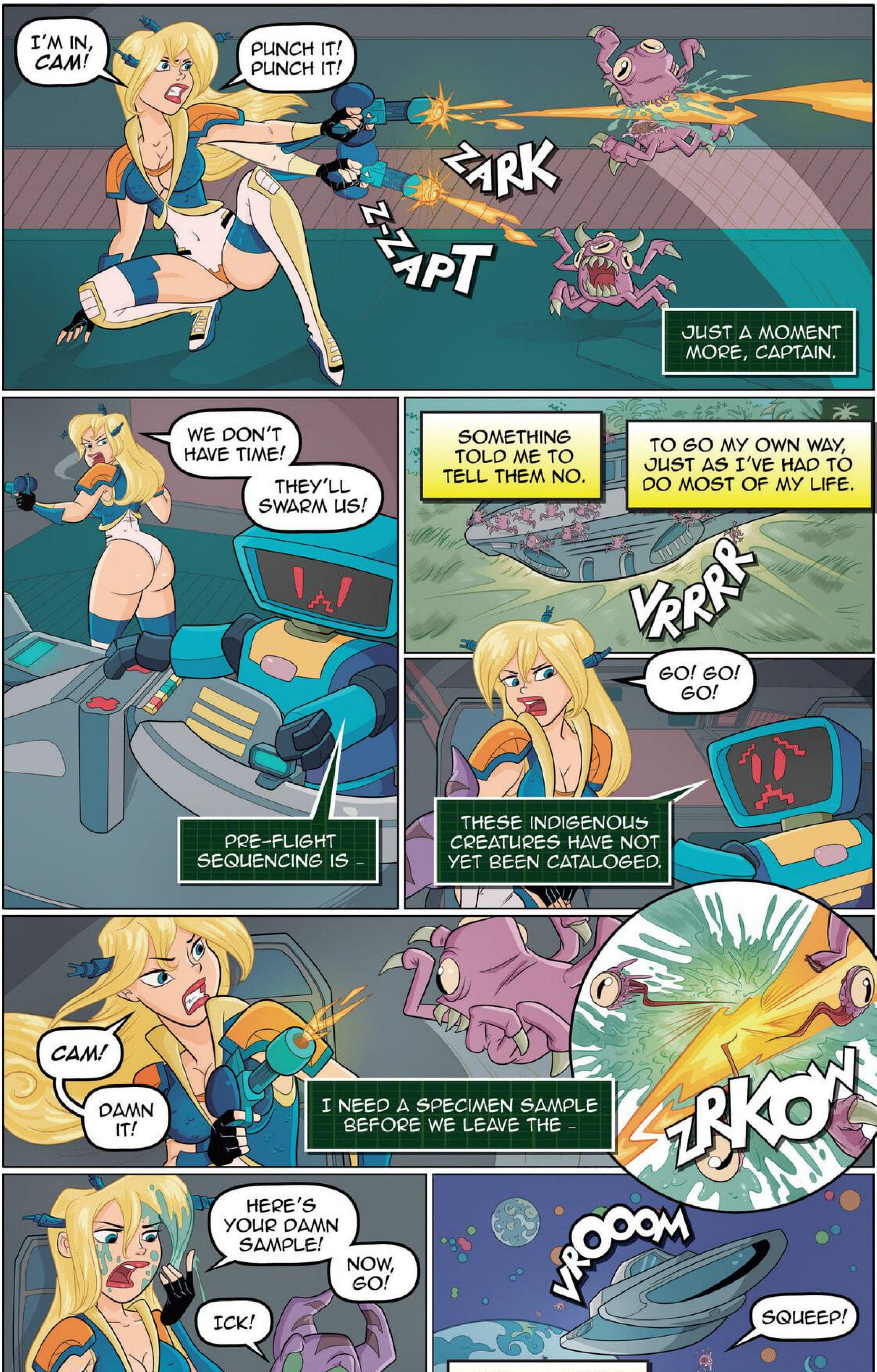

... THE SKY'S THE LIMIT, RIGHT?
WELL? WHERE TO NEXT, CAP'N?
OH, YOU KNOW... OUT THERE.

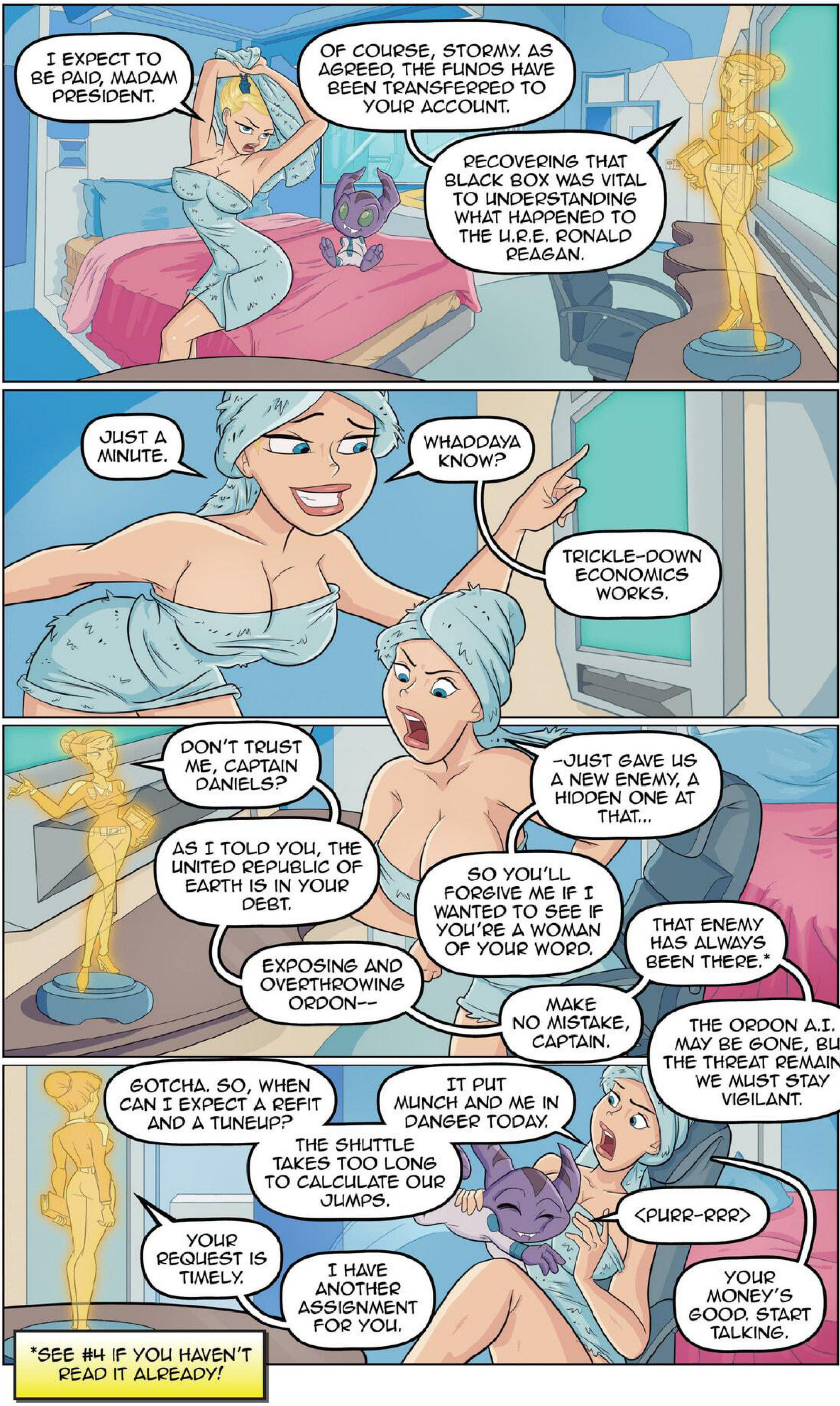

"WHERE THE MONEY IS!"

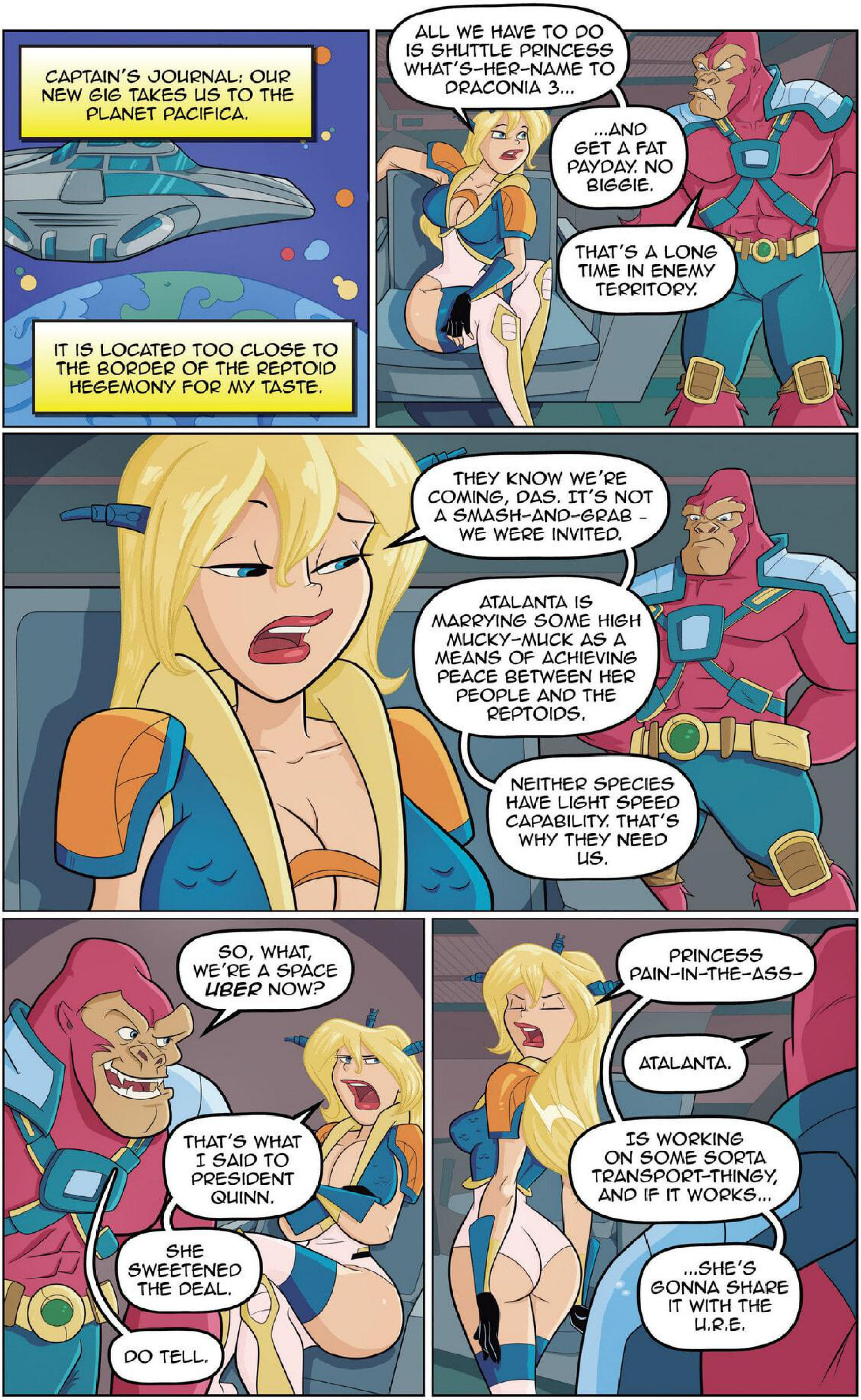
MISSION
FIVE

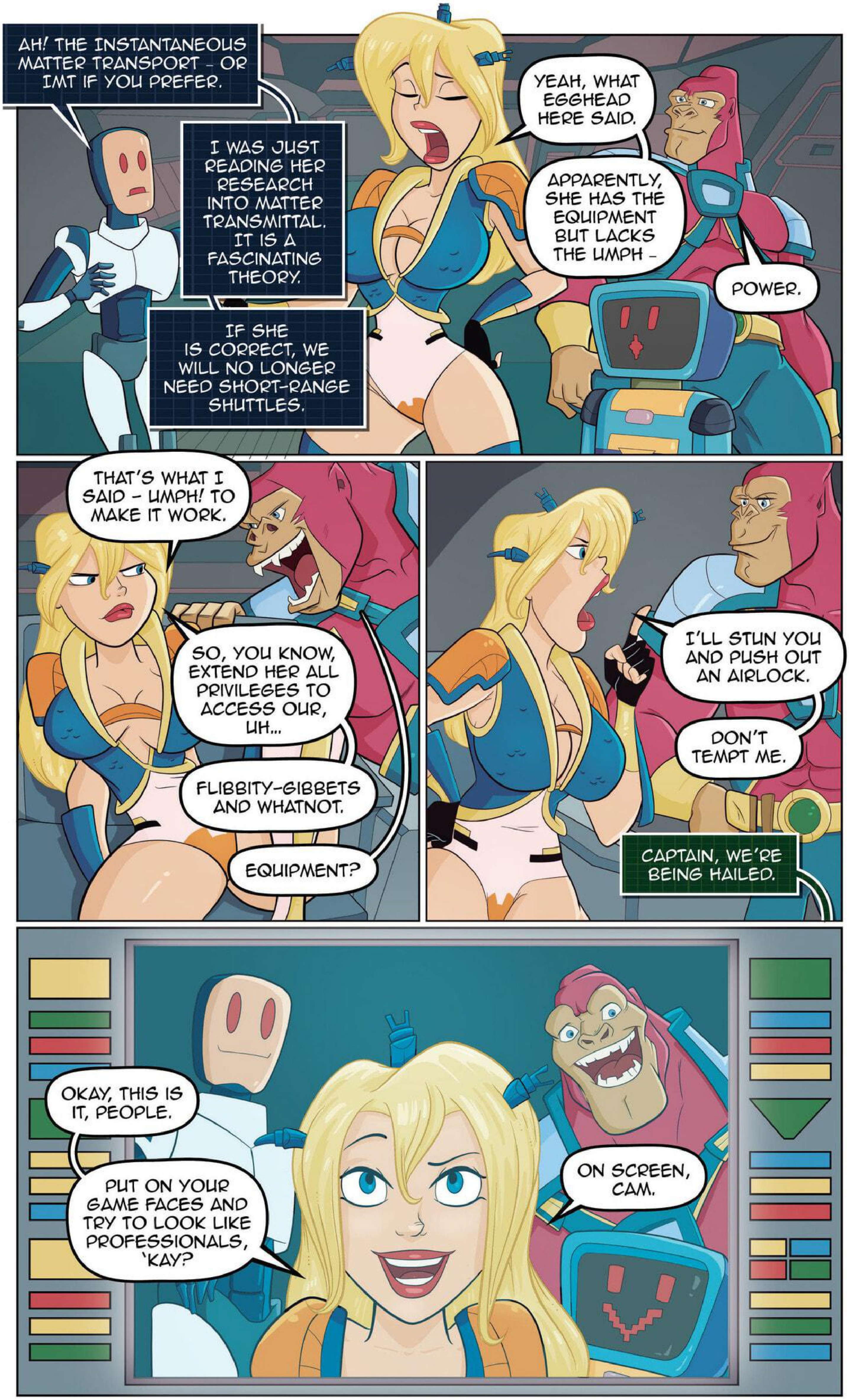

PERHAPS I SHOULD START AT THE BEGINNING.
SEND MY BRIDE TO BE INTACT, OR I WILL DESTROY YOU ALL!
WELL, WHAT NOW, DAS?
MEEP!
I'M TRYING, STORMY!
FROM THE JOURNAL OF CAPTAIN DANIELS, SPECIAL CONTRACTOR...
SPACE FORCE, UNITED REPUBLIC OF EARTH:

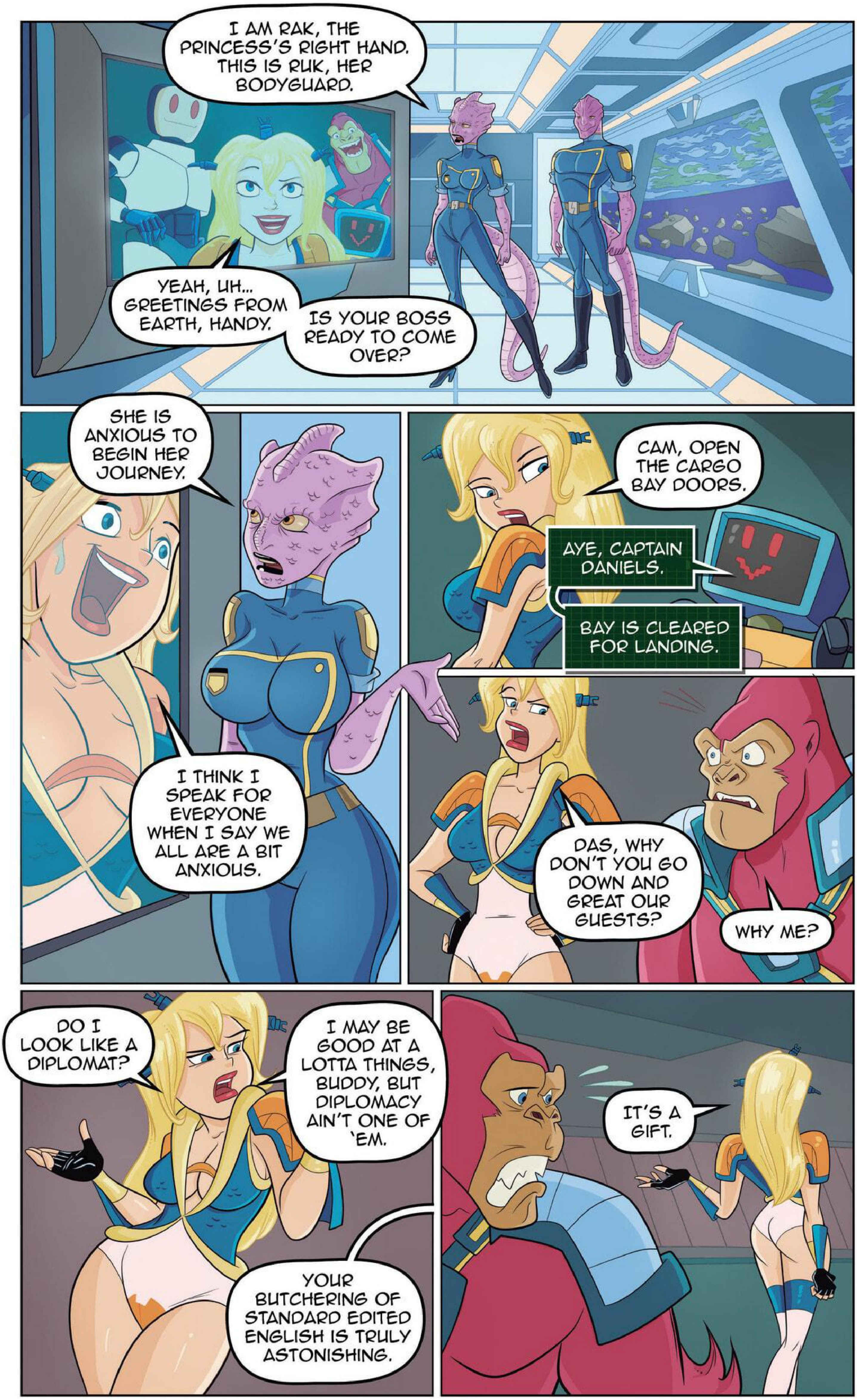

THE MISSION TO ULTI PRIME? COULD'VE GONE BETTER.
BETTER HAVE THAT SHUTTLE READY!
I MEAN IT!
I RETRIEVED THE BLACK BOX FROM A CRASHED U.R.E. STARSHIP.
AS YOU KNOW, THE SHUTTLE TAKES SOME TIME TO WARM-UP, CAPTAIN.
CAM!!!
IF YOU HAD RADIOED AHEAD, WE COULD –
THERE WAS NO SIGN OF THE CREW.
NOW I KNOW WHY.
SHUT UP AND LOWER THE RAMP!
HURRY, CAM!
LITTLE BEASTIES ARE HUNGRY.
OH, DEAR. NOT AGAIN.
LOWERING RAMP NOW, CAPTAIN.
I DON'T THINK WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT!
HANGRY, EVEN.
"STICK WITH THE SPACE FORCE, STORMY."
ZARK
ZIP
"IT WILL BE AN ADVENTURE," THEY SAID.
"YOU'LL LOVE IT," THEY SAID.
SCREEE!

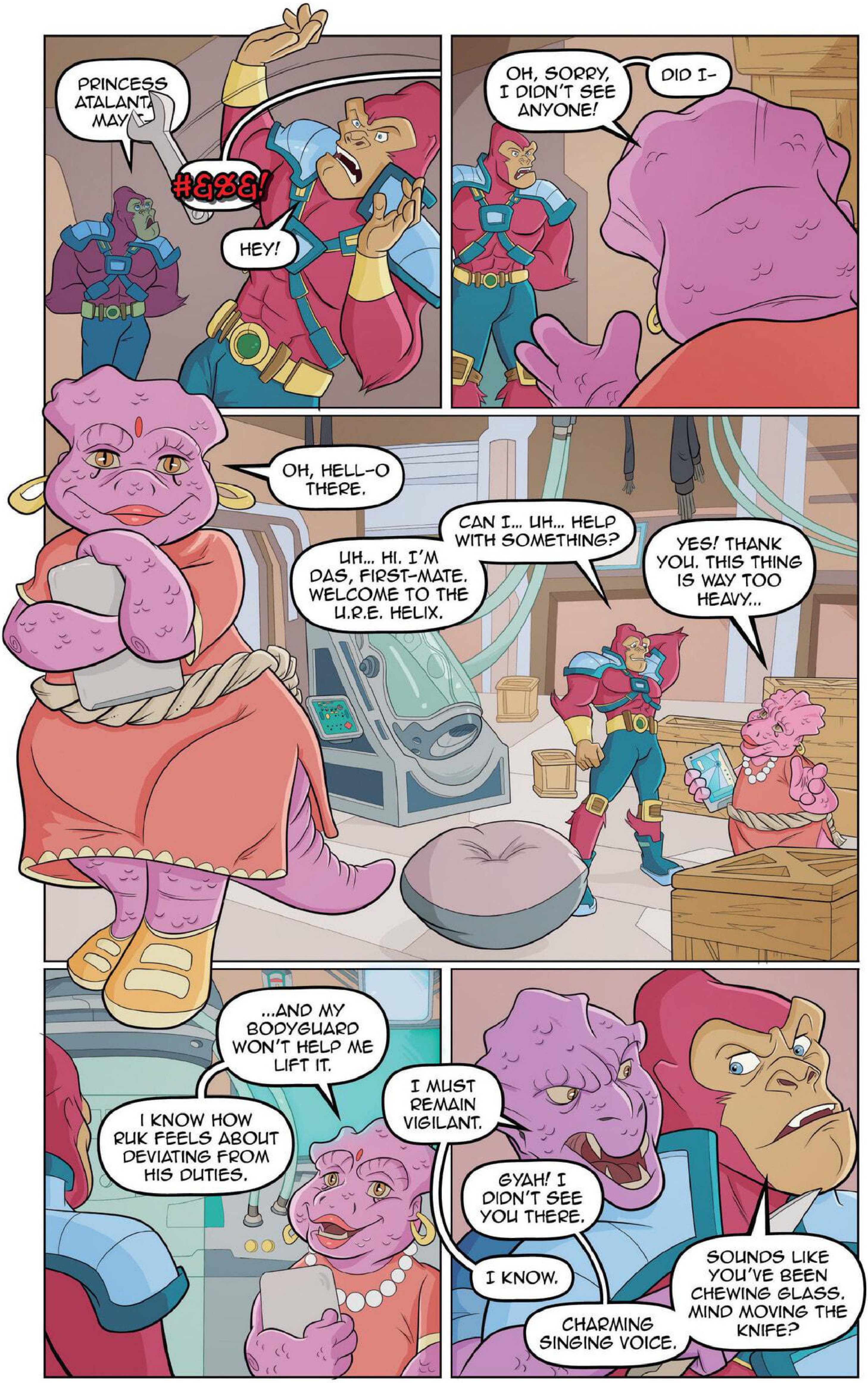

I'M IN, CAM!
PUNCH IT! PUNCH IT!
ZARK
Z-ZAPT
JUST A MOMENT MORE, CAPTAIN.
WE DON'T HAVE TIME!
THEY'LL SWARM US!
PRE-FLIGHT SEQUENCING IS –
SOMETHING TOLD ME TO TELL THEM NO.
TO GO MY OWN WAY, JUST AS I'VE HAD TO DO MOST OF MY LIFE.
VRRRR
GO! GO! GO!
THESE INDIGENOUS CREATURES HAVE NOT YET BEEN CATALOGED.
CAM!
DAMN IT!
I NEED A SPECIMEN SAMPLE BEFORE WE LEAVE THE –
ZRKOW
HERE'S YOUR DAMN SAMPLE!
NOW, GO!
ICK!
VROOOOM
SQUEEP!
BUT, AS I TOLD PRESIDENT QUINN.

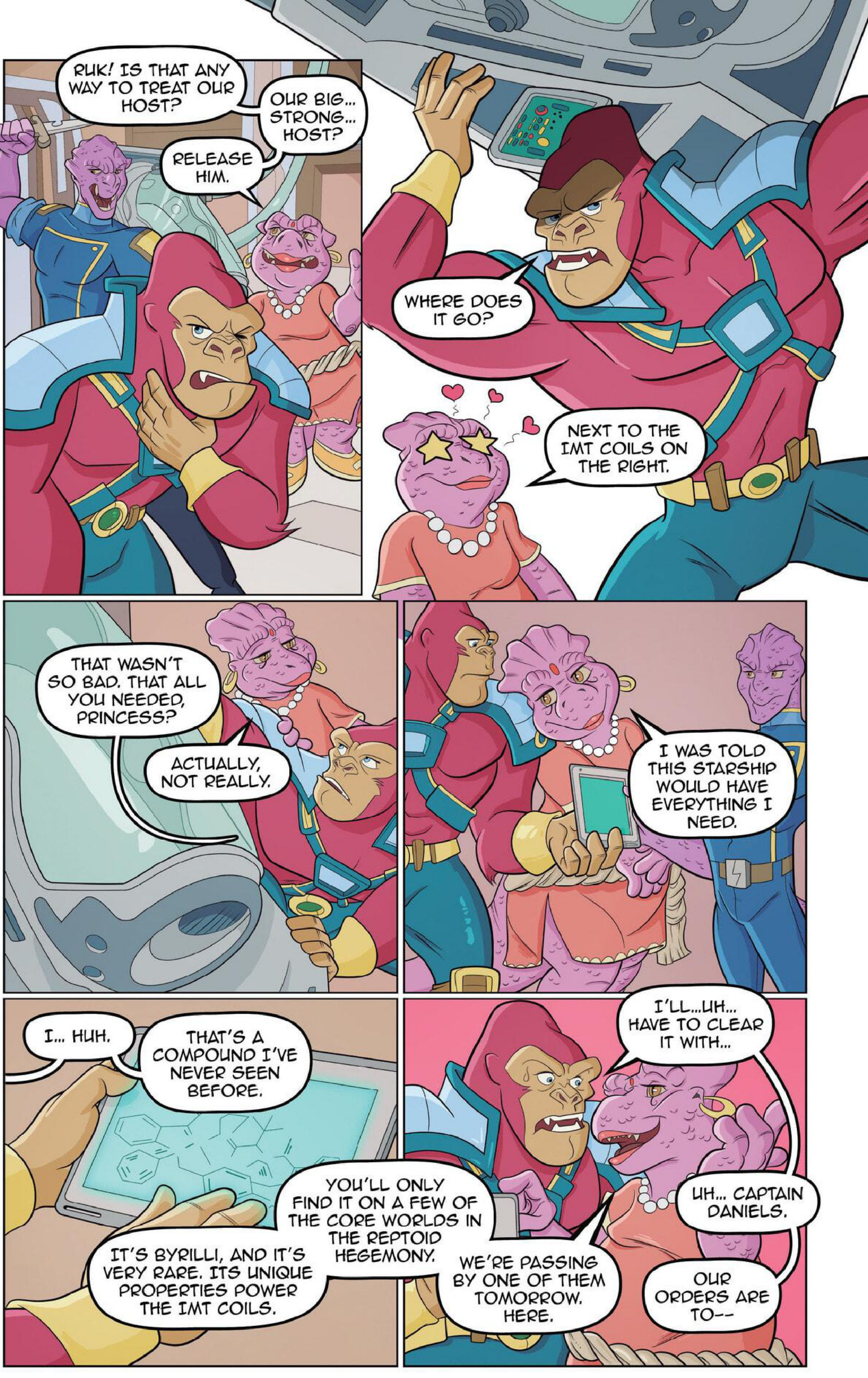

I EXPECT TO BE PAID, MADAM PRESIDENT.
OF COURSE, STORMY. AS AGREED, THE FUNDS HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO YOUR ACCOUNT.
RECOVERING THAT BLACK BOX WAS VITAL TO UNDERSTANDING WHAT HAPPENED TO THE U.R.E. RONALD REAGAN.
JUST A MINUTE.
WHADDAYA KNOW?
TRICKLE-DOWN ECONOMICS WORKS.
DON'T TRUST ME, CAPTAIN DANIELS?
AS I TOLD YOU, THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF EARTH IS IN YOUR DEBT.
EXPOSING AND OVERTHROWING ORDON--
-JUST GAVE US A NEW ENEMY, A HIDDEN ONE AT THAT...
SO YOU'LL FORGIVE ME IF I WANTED TO SEE IF YOU'RE A WOMAN OF YOUR WORD.
MAKE NO MISTAKE, CAPTAIN.
THAT ENEMY HAS ALWAYS BEEN THERE.*
THE ORDON A.I. MAY BE GONE, BUT THE THREAT REMAINS. WE MUST STAY VIGILANT.
GOTCHA. SO, WHEN CAN I EXPECT A REFIT AND A TUNEUP?
IT PUT MUNCH AND ME IN DANGER TODAY.
THE SHUTTLE TAKES TOO LONG TO CALCULATE OUR JUMPS.
<PURR-RRR>
YOUR REQUEST IS TIMELY.
I HAVE ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT FOR YOU.
YOUR MONEY'S GOOD. START TALKING.
*SEE #4 IF YOU HAVEN'T READ IT ALREADY!

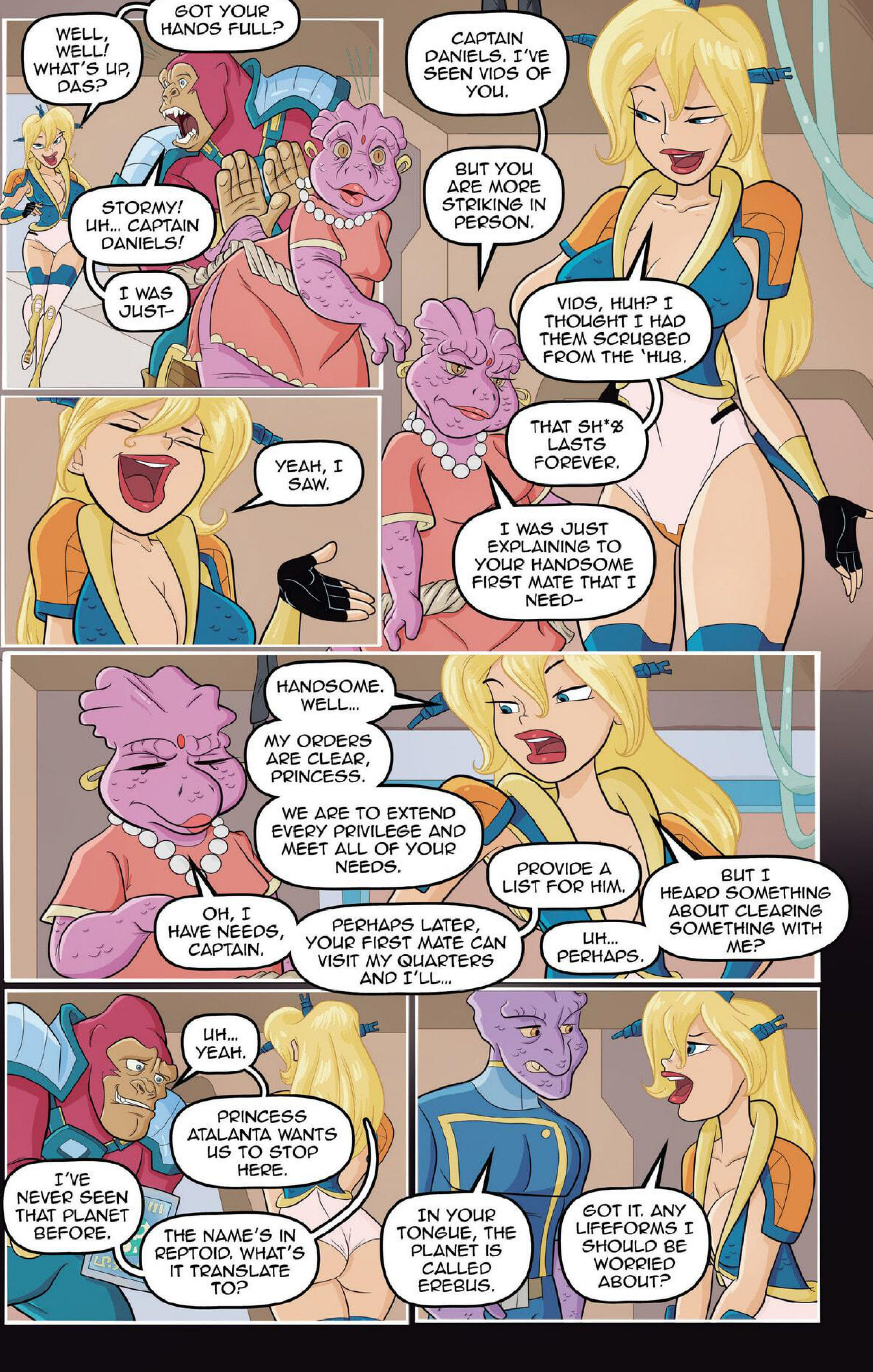

CAPTAIN'S JOURNAL: OUR NEW GIG TAKES US TO THE PLANET PACIFICA.
IT IS LOCATED TOO CLOSE TO THE BORDER OF THE REPTOID HEGEMONY FOR MY TASTE.
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SHUTTLE PRINCESS WHAT'S-HER-NAME TO DRACONIA 3...
...AND GET A FAT PAYDAY. NO BIGGIE.
THAT'S A LONG TIME IN ENEMY TERRITORY.
THEY KNOW WE'RE COMING, DAS. IT'S NOT A SMASH-AND-GRAB - WE WERE INVITED.
ATALANTA IS MARRYING SOME HIGH MUCKY-MUCK AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING PEACE BETWEEN HER PEOPLE AND THE REPTOIDS.
NEITHER SPECIES HAVE LIGHT SPEED CAPABILITY. THAT'S WHY THEY NEED US.
SO, WHAT, WE'RE A SPACE *UBER* NOW?
THAT'S WHAT I SAID TO PRESIDENT QUINN.
SHE SWEETENED THE DEAL.
DO TELL.
PRINCESS PAIN-IN-THE-ASS-
ATALANTA.
IS WORKING ON SOME SORTA TRANSPORT-THINGY, AND IF IT WORKS...
...SHE'S GONNA SHARE IT WITH THE U.R.E.

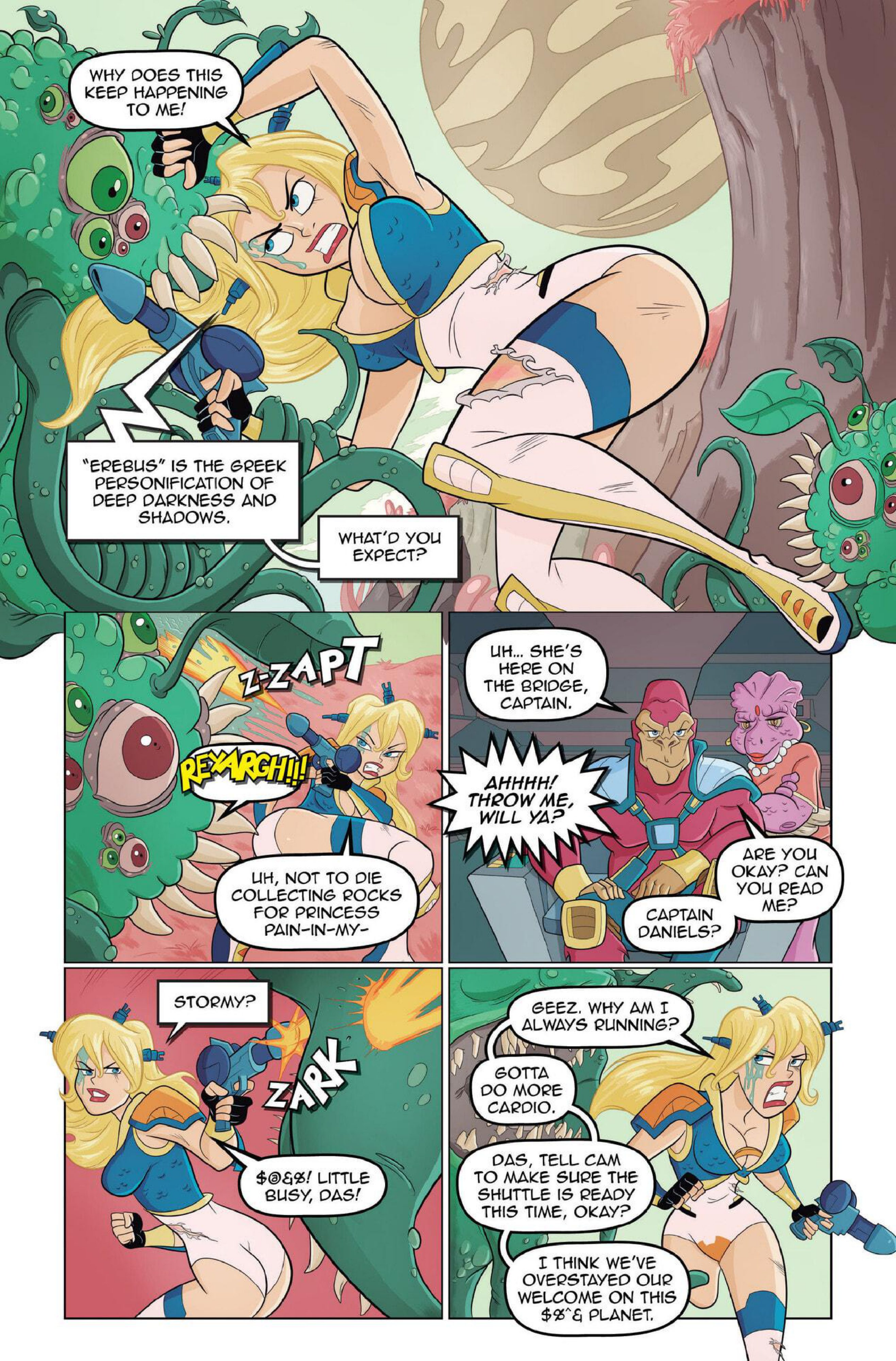

AH! THE INSTANTANEOUS MATTER TRANSPORT – OR IMT IF YOU PREFER.
I WAS JUST READING HER RESEARCH INTO MATTER TRANSMITTAL. IT IS A FASCINATING THEORY.
IF SHE IS CORRECT, WE WILL NO LONGER NEED SHORT-RANGE SHUTTLES.
YEAH, WHAT EGGHEAD HERE SAID.
APPARENTLY, SHE HAS THE EQUIPMENT BUT LACKS THE UMPH –
POWER.
THAT'S WHAT I SAID – UMPH! TO MAKE IT WORK.
SO, YOU KNOW, EXTEND HER ALL PRIVILEGES TO ACCESS OUR, UH...
FLIBBITY-GIBBETS AND WHATNOT.
EQUIPMENT?
I'LL STUN YOU AND PUSH OUT AN AIRLOCK.
DON'T TEMPT ME.
CAPTAIN, WE'RE BEING HAILED.
OKAY, THIS IS IT, PEOPLE.
PUT ON YOUR GAME FACES AND TRY TO LOOK LIKE PROFESSIONALS, 'KAY?
ON SCREEN, CAM.

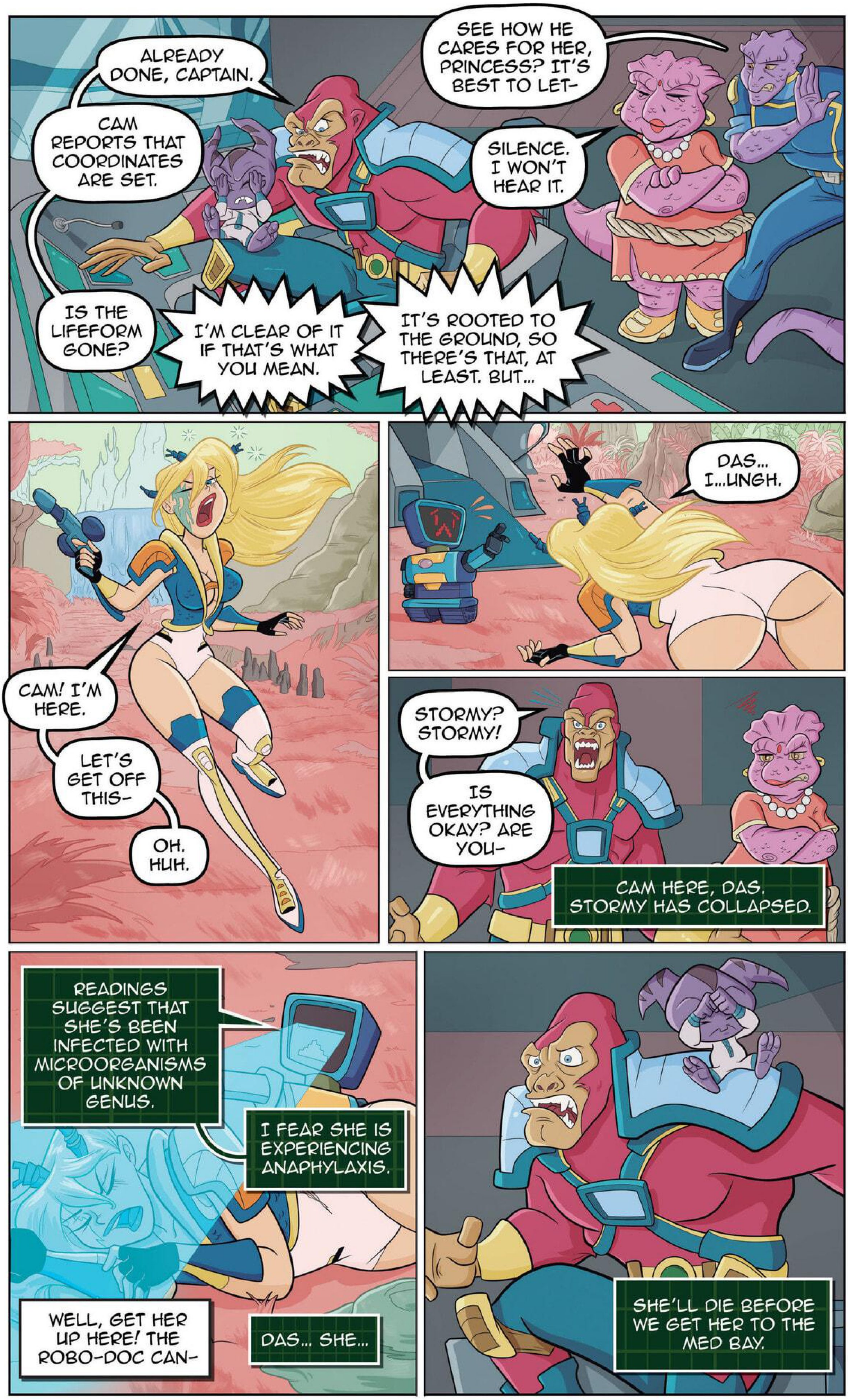

I AM RAK, THE PRINCESS'S RIGHT HAND. THIS IS RUK, HER BODYGUARD.
YEAH, UH... GREETINGS FROM EARTH, HANDY.
IS YOUR BOSS READY TO COME OVER?
SHE IS ANXIOUS TO BEGIN HER JOURNEY.
I THINK I SPEAK FOR EVERYONE WHEN I SAY WE ALL ARE A BIT ANXIOUS.
CAM, OPEN THE CARGO BAY DOORS.
AYE, CAPTAIN DANIELS.
BAY IS CLEARED FOR LANDING.
DAS, WHY DON'T YOU GO DOWN AND GREAT OUR GUESTS?
WHY ME?
DO I LOOK LIKE A DIPLOMAT?
I MAY BE GOOD AT A LOTTA THINGS, BUDDY, BUT DIPLOMACY AIN'T ONE OF 'EM.
YOUR BUTCHERING OF STANDARD EDITED ENGLISH IS TRULY ASTONISHING.
IT'S A GIFT.


PRINCESS ATALANTA MAY-
#&%&!
HEY!
OH, SORRY, I DIDN'T SEE ANYONE!
DID I-
OH, HELL-O THERE.
UH... HI. I'M DAS, FIRST-MATE. WELCOME TO THE U.R.E. HELIX.
CAN I... UH... HELP WITH SOMETHING?
YES! THANK YOU. THIS THING IS WAY TOO HEAVY...
...AND MY BODYGUARD WON'T HELP ME LIFT IT.
I KNOW HOW RUK FEELS ABOUT DEVIATING FROM HIS DUTIES.
I MUST REMAIN VIGILANT.
GYAH! I DIDN'T SEE YOU THERE.
I KNOW.
CHARMING SINGING VOICE.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN CHEWING GLASS. MIND MOVING THE KNIFE?

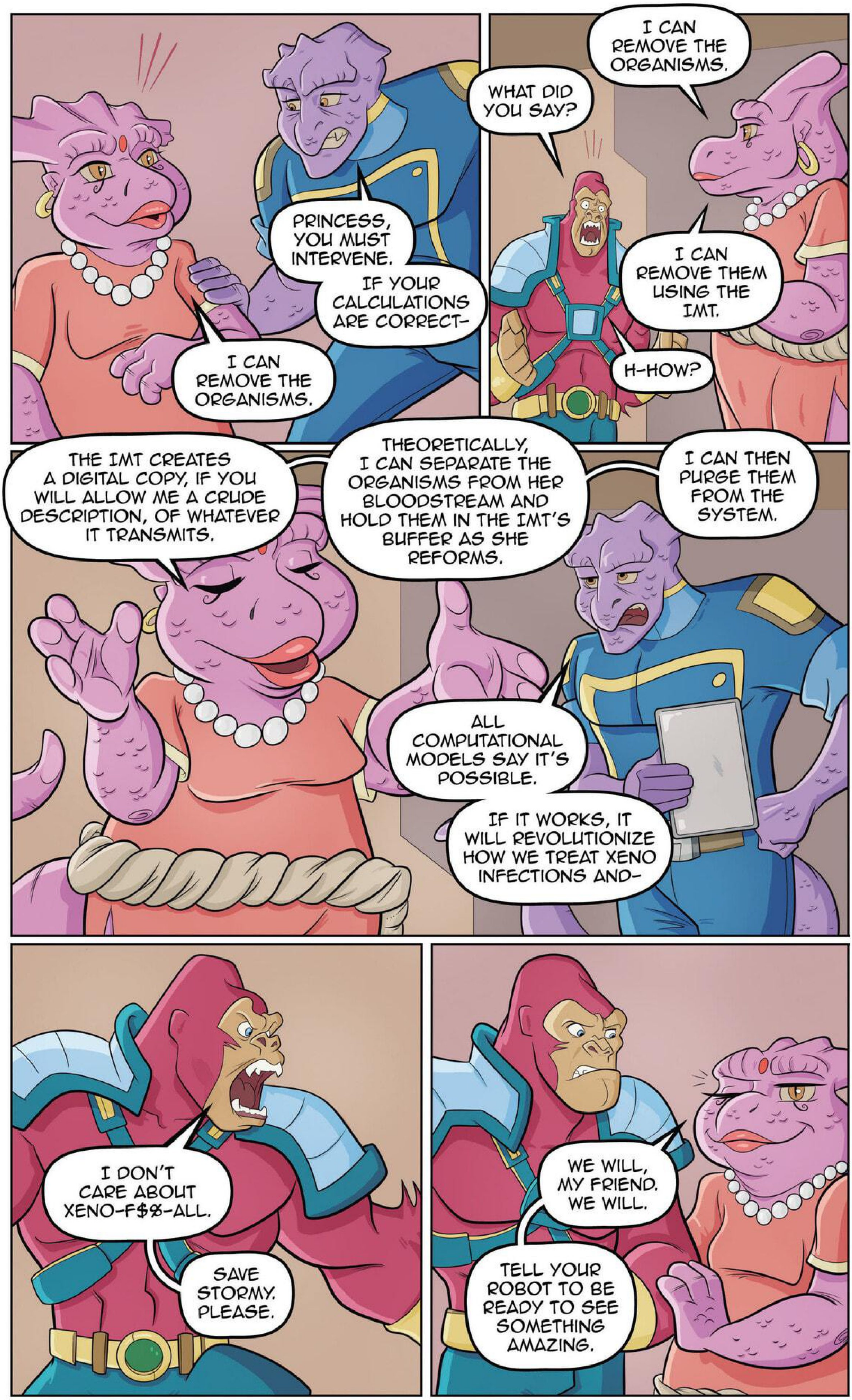

RUK! IS THAT ANY WAY TO TREAT OUR HOST?
OUR BIG... STRONG... HOST?
RELEASE HIM.
WHERE DOES IT GO?
NEXT TO THE IMT COILS ON THE RIGHT.
THAT WASN'T SO BAD. THAT ALL YOU NEEDED, PRINCESS?
ACTUALLY, NOT REALLY.
I WAS TOLD THIS STARSHIP WOULD HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED.
I... HUH.
THAT'S A COMPOUND I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE.
IT'S BYRILLI, AND IT'S VERY RARE. ITS UNIQUE PROPERTIES POWER THE IMT COILS.
YOU'LL ONLY FIND IT ON A FEW OF THE CORE WORLDS IN THE REPTOID HEGEMONY.
WE'RE PASSING BY ONE OF THEM TOMORROW. HERE.
I'LL...UH... HAVE TO CLEAR IT WITH...
UH... CAPTAIN DANIELS.
OUR ORDERS ARE TO--

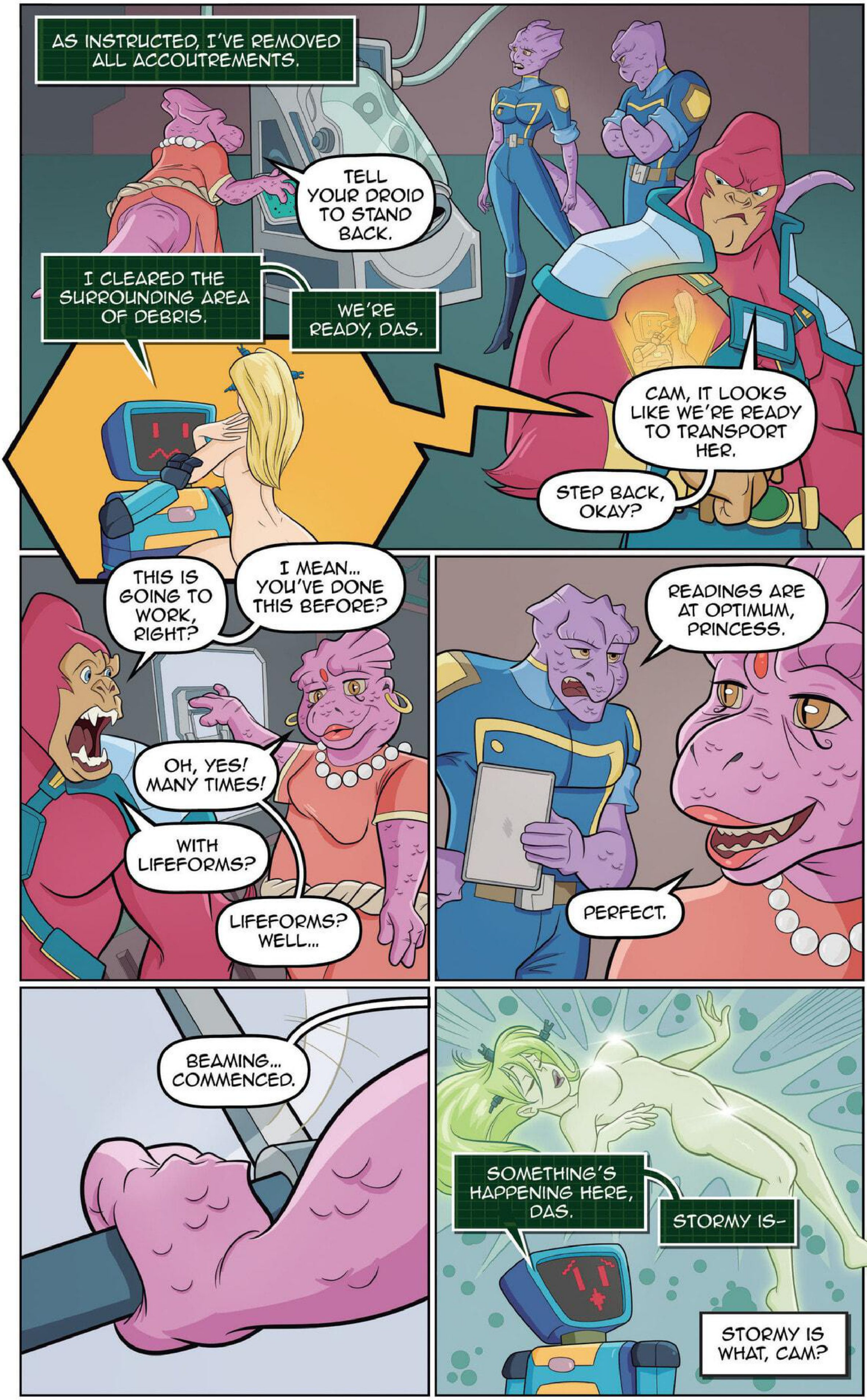

WELL, WELL! WHAT'S UP, DAS?
GOT YOUR HANDS FULL?
STORMY! UH... CAPTAIN DANIELS!
I WAS JUST-
CAPTAIN DANIELS. I'VE SEEN VIDS OF YOU.
BUT YOU ARE MORE STRIKING IN PERSON.
VIDS, HUH? I THOUGHT I HAD THEM SCRUBBED FROM THE 'HUB.
THAT SH*% LASTS FOREVER.
YEAH, I SAW.
I WAS JUST EXPLAINING TO YOUR HANDSOME FIRST MATE THAT I NEED-
HANDSOME. WELL...
MY ORDERS ARE CLEAR, PRINCESS.
WE ARE TO EXTEND EVERY PRIVILEGE AND MEET ALL OF YOUR NEEDS.
OH, I HAVE NEEDS, CAPTAIN.
PERHAPS LATER, YOUR FIRST MATE CAN VISIT MY QUARTERS AND I'LL...
PROVIDE A LIST FOR HIM.
UH... PERHAPS.
BUT I HEARD SOMETHING ABOUT CLEARING SOMETHING WITH ME?
UH... YEAH.
PRINCESS ATALANTA WANTS US TO STOP HERE.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT PLANET BEFORE.
THE NAME'S IN REPTOID. WHAT'S IT TRANSLATE TO?
IN YOUR TONGUE, THE PLANET IS CALLED EREBUS.
GOT IT. ANY LIFEFORMS I SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT?

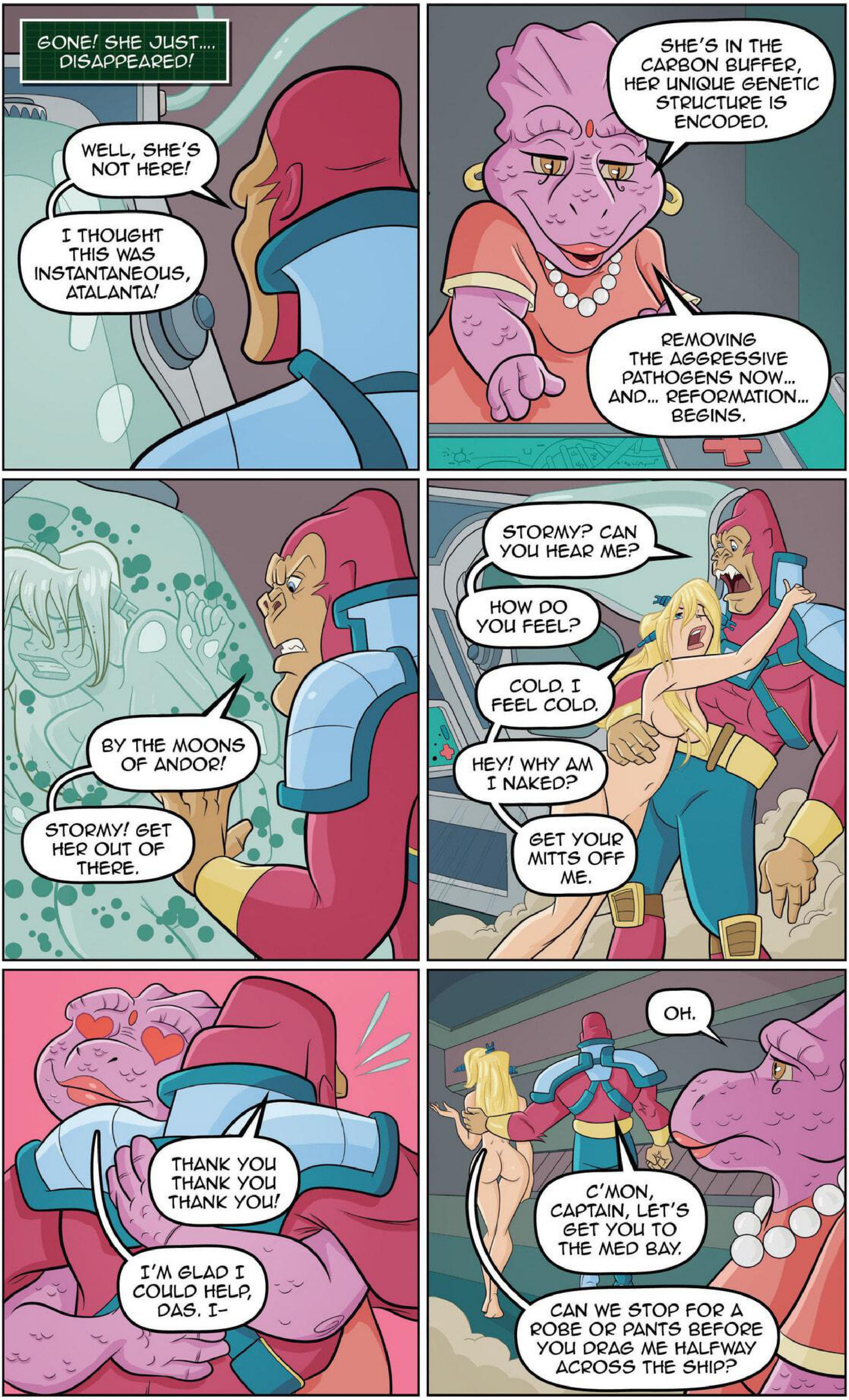

WHY DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING TO ME!
"EREBUS" IS THE GREEK PERSONIFICATION OF DEEP DARKNESS AND SHADOWS.
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT?
Z-ZAPT
REYARGH!!!
UH, NOT TO DIE COLLECTING ROCKS FOR PRINCESS PAIN-IN-MY-
UH... SHE'S HERE ON THE BRIDGE, CAPTAIN.
AHHHH! THROW ME, WILL YA?
CAPTAIN DANIELS?
ARE YOU OKAY? CAN YOU READ ME?
STORMY?
ZARK
$@&%! LITTLE BUSY, DAS!
GEEZ. WHY AM I ALWAYS RUNNING?
GOTTA DO MORE CARDIO.
DAS, TELL CAM TO MAKE SURE THE SHUTTLE IS READY THIS TIME, OKAY?
I THINK WE'VE OVERSTAYED OUR WELCOME ON THIS $%^& PLANET.

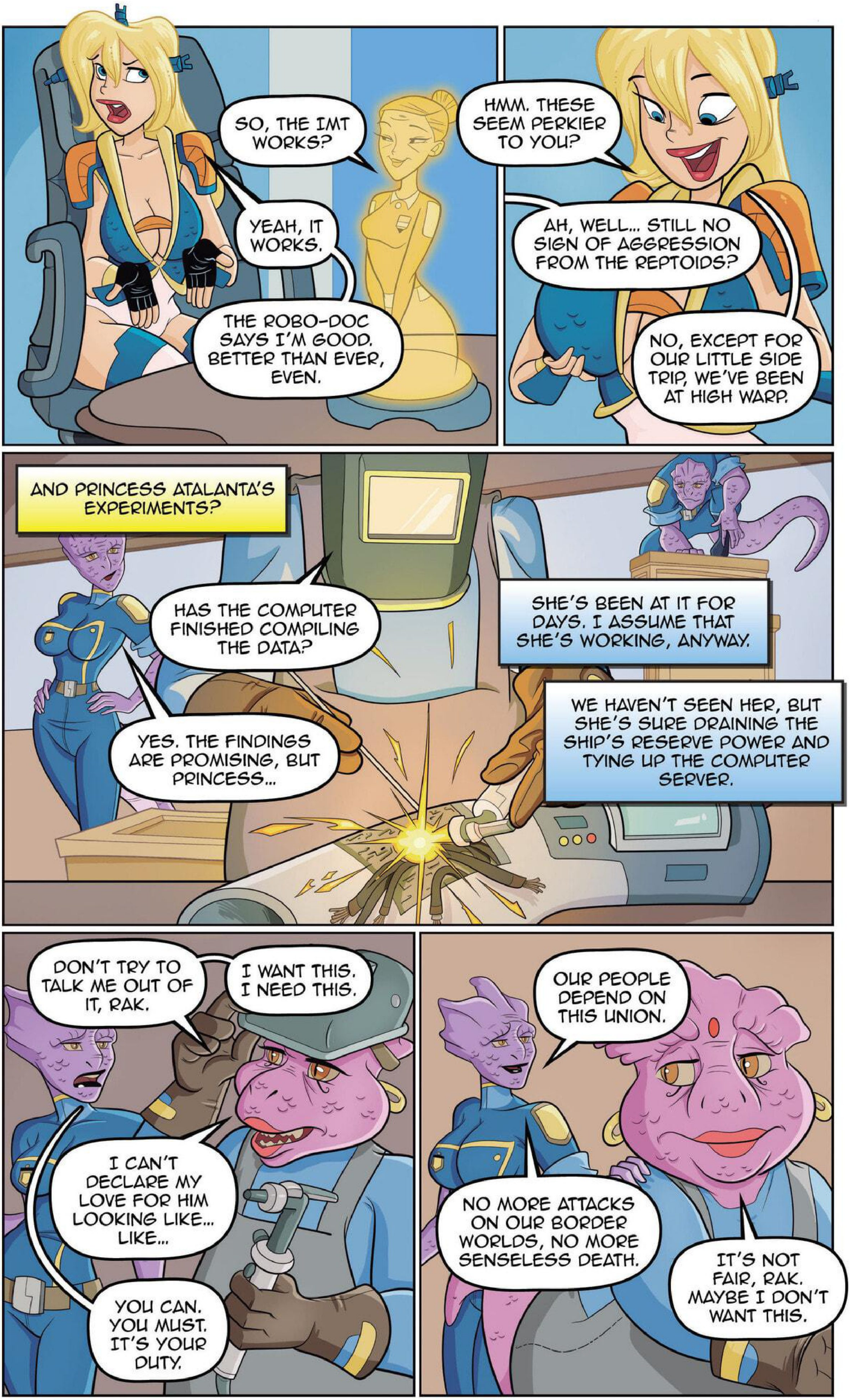


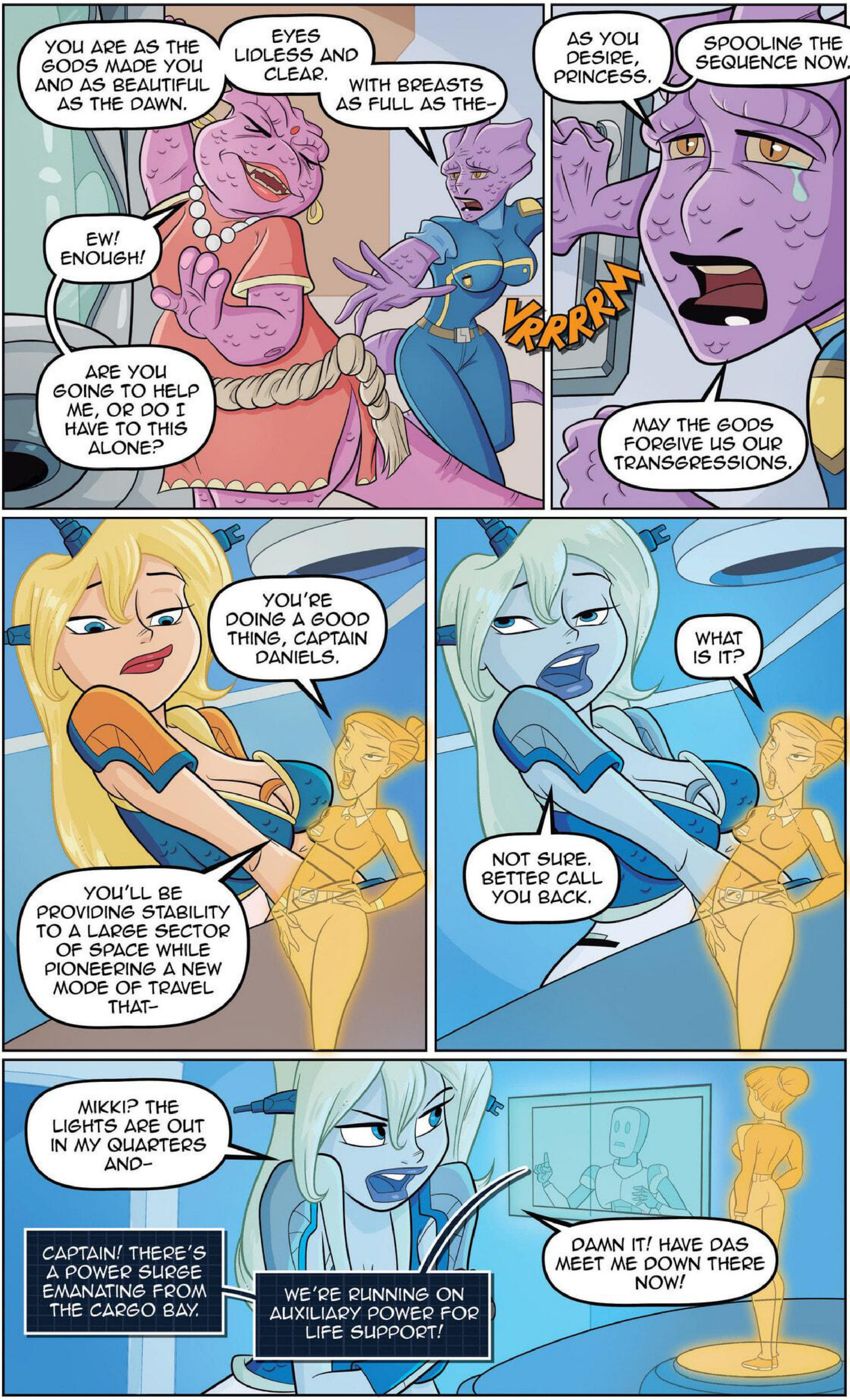
ALREADY DONE, CAPTAIN.
CAM REPORTS THAT COORDINATES ARE SET.
SEE HOW HE CARES FOR HER, PRINCESS? IT'S BEST TO LET-
SILENCE. I WON'T HEAR IT.
IS THE LIFEFORM GONE?
I'M CLEAR OF IT IF THAT'S WHAT YOU MEAN.
IT'S ROOTED TO THE GROUND, SO THERE'S THAT, AT LEAST. BUT...
CAM! I'M HERE.
LET'S GET OFF THIS-
OH. HUH.
DAS... I...UNGH.
STORMY? STORMY!
IS EVERYTHING OKAY? ARE YOU-
CAM HERE, DAS. STORMY HAS COLLAPSED.
READINGS SUGGEST THAT SHE'S BEEN INFECTED WITH MICROORGANISMS OF UNKNOWN GENUS.
I FEAR SHE IS EXPERIENCING ANAPHYLAXIS.
WELL, GET HER UP HERE! THE ROBO-DOC CAN-
DAS... SHE...
SHE'LL DIE BEFORE WE GET HER TO THE MED BAY.

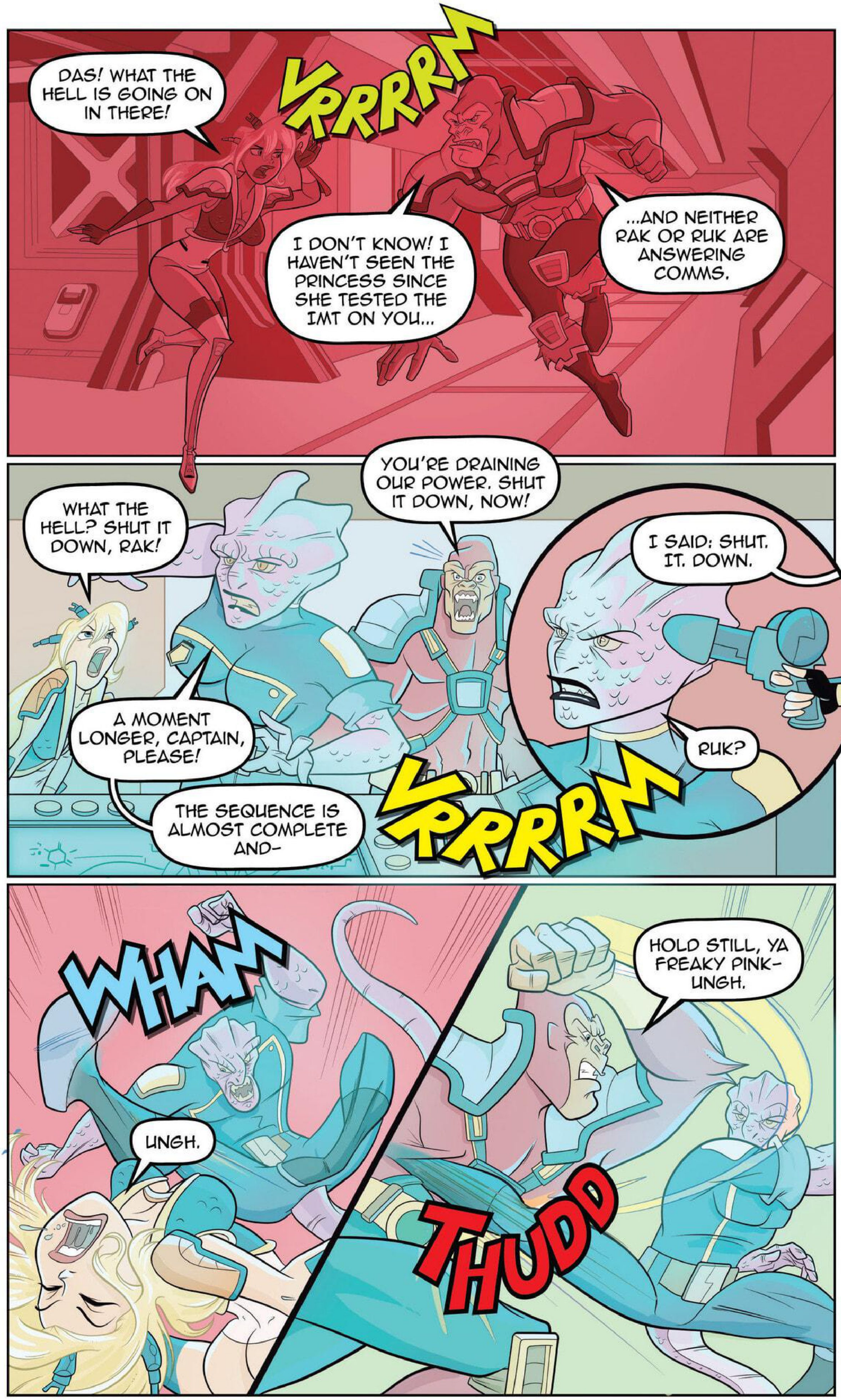

PRINCESS, YOU MUST INTERVENE.
IF YOUR CALCULATIONS ARE CORRECT-
I CAN REMOVE THE ORGANISMS.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
I CAN REMOVE THE ORGANISMS.
I CAN REMOVE THEM USING THE IMT.
H-HOW?
THE IMT CREATES A DIGITAL COPY, IF YOU WILL ALLOW ME A CRUDE DESCRIPTION, OF WHATEVER IT TRANSMITS.
THEORETICALLY, I CAN SEPARATE THE ORGANISMS FROM HER BLOODSTREAM AND HOLD THEM IN THE IMT'S BUFFER AS SHE REFORMS.
I CAN THEN PURGE THEM FROM THE SYSTEM.
ALL COMPUTATIONAL MODELS SAY IT'S POSSIBLE.
IF IT WORKS, IT WILL REVOLUTIONIZE HOW WE TREAT XENO INFECTIONS AND-
I DON'T CARE ABOUT XENO-F$%-ALL.
SAVE STORMY. PLEASE.
WE WILL, MY FRIEND. WE WILL.
TELL YOUR ROBOT TO BE READY TO SEE SOMETHING AMAZING.

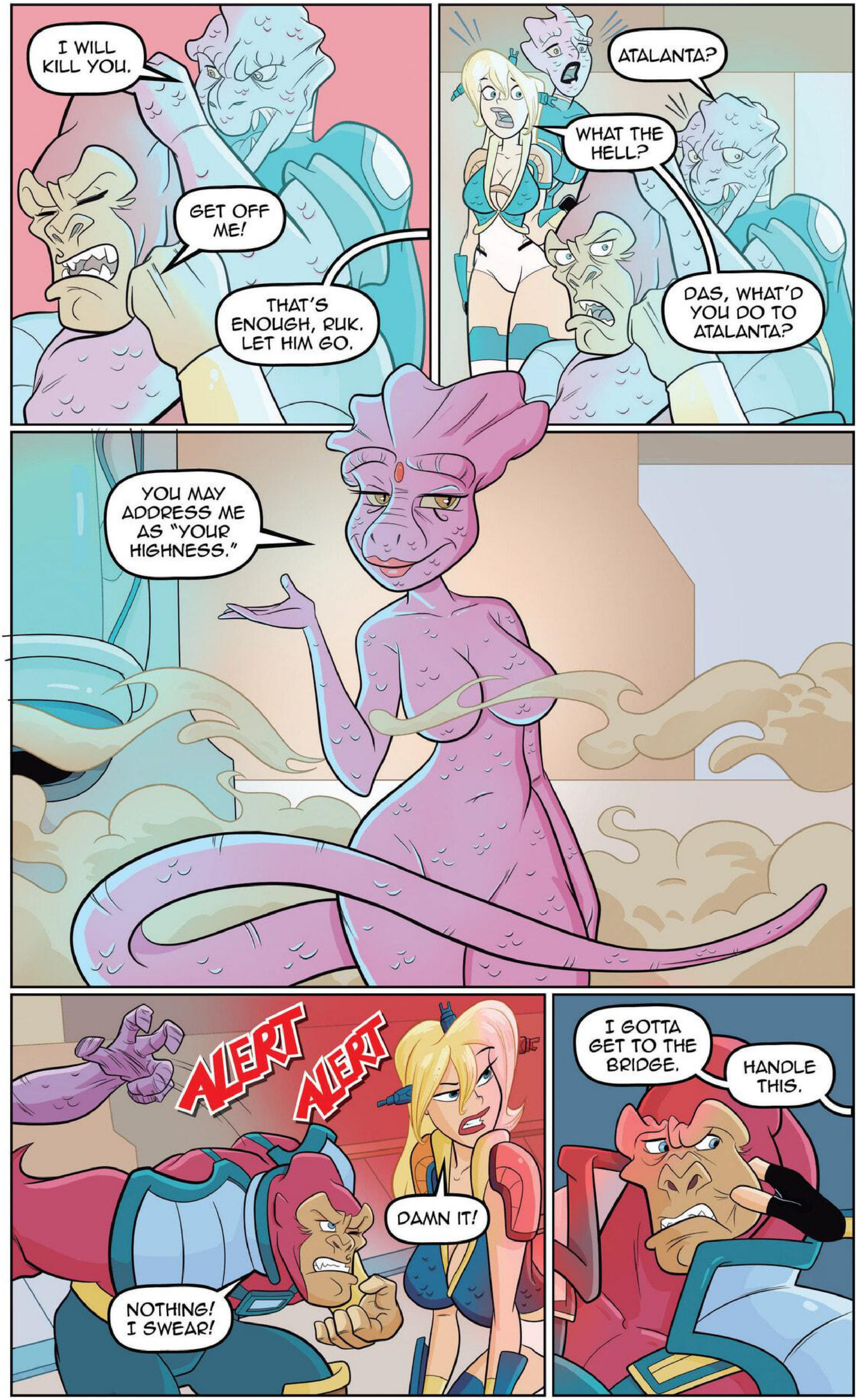

AS INSTRUCTED, I'VE REMOVED ALL ACCOUTREMENTS.
TELL YOUR DROID TO STAND BACK.
I CLEARED THE SURROUNDING AREA OF DEBRIS.
WE'RE READY, DAS.
CAM, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE READY TO TRANSPORT HER.
STEP BACK, OKAY?
THIS IS GOING TO WORK, RIGHT?
I MEAN... YOU'VE DONE THIS BEFORE?
OH, YES! MANY TIMES!
WITH LIFEFORMS?
LIFEFORMS? WELL...
READINGS ARE AT OPTIMUM, PRINCESS.
PERFECT.
BEAMING... COMMENCED.
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING HERE, DAS.
STORMY IS-
STORMY IS WHAT, CAM?

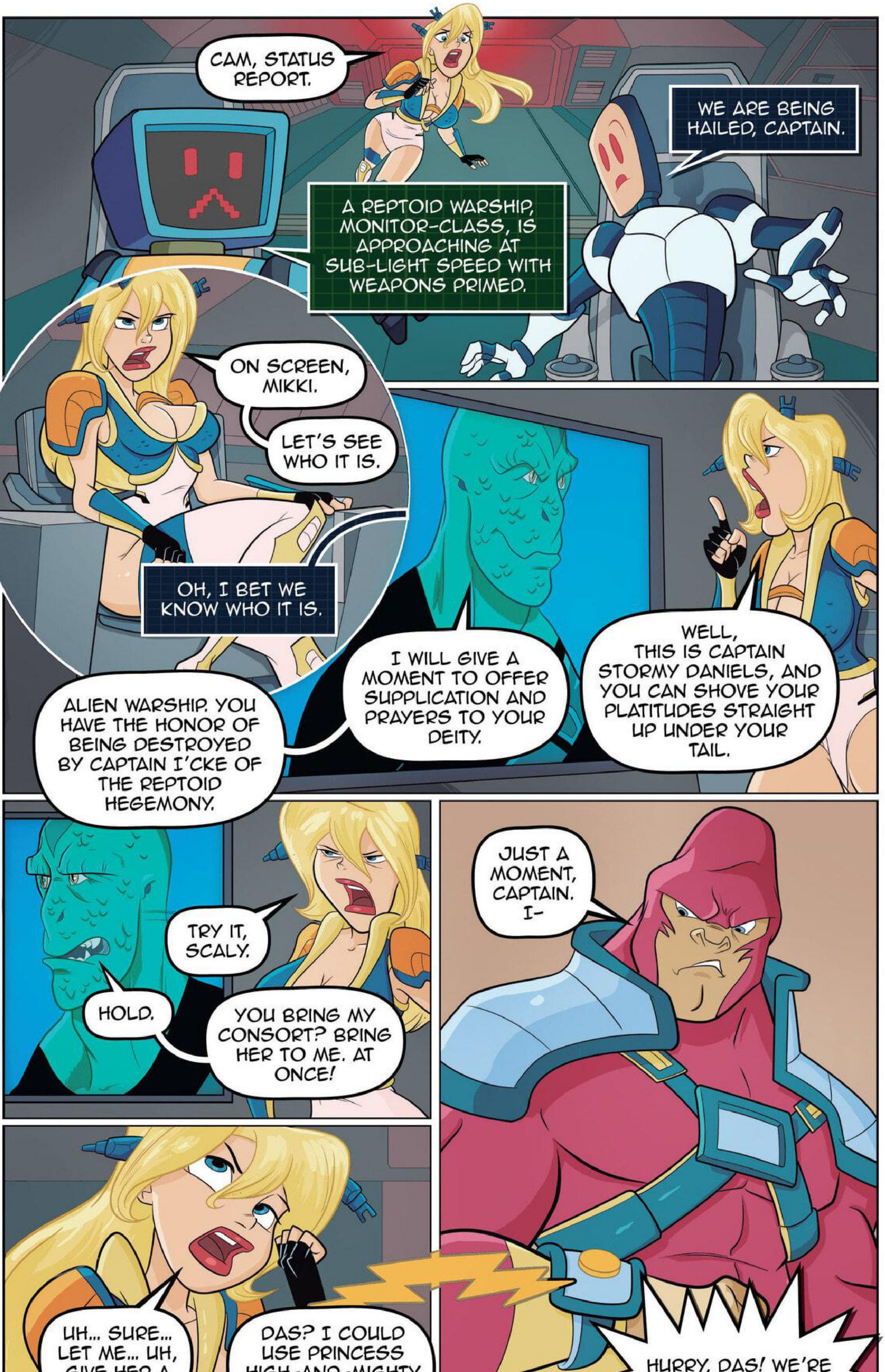

GONE! SHE JUST.... DISAPPEARED!
WELL, SHE'S NOT HERE!
I THOUGHT THIS WAS INSTANTANEOUS, ATALANTA!
SHE'S IN THE CARBON BUFFER, HER UNIQUE GENETIC STRUCTURE IS ENCODED.
REMOVING THE AGGRESSIVE PATHOGENS NOW... AND... REFORMATION... BEGINS.
BY THE MOONS OF ANDOR!
STORMY! GET HER OUT OF THERE.
STORMY? CAN YOU HEAR ME?
HOW DO YOU FEEL?
COLD. I FEEL COLD.
HEY! WHY AM I NAKED?
GET YOUR MITTS OFF ME.
THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU!
I'M GLAD I COULD HELP, DAS. I-
OH.
C'MON, CAPTAIN, LET'S GET YOU TO THE MED BAY.
CAN WE STOP FOR A ROBE OR PANTS BEFORE YOU DRAG ME HALFWAY ACROSS THE SHIP?

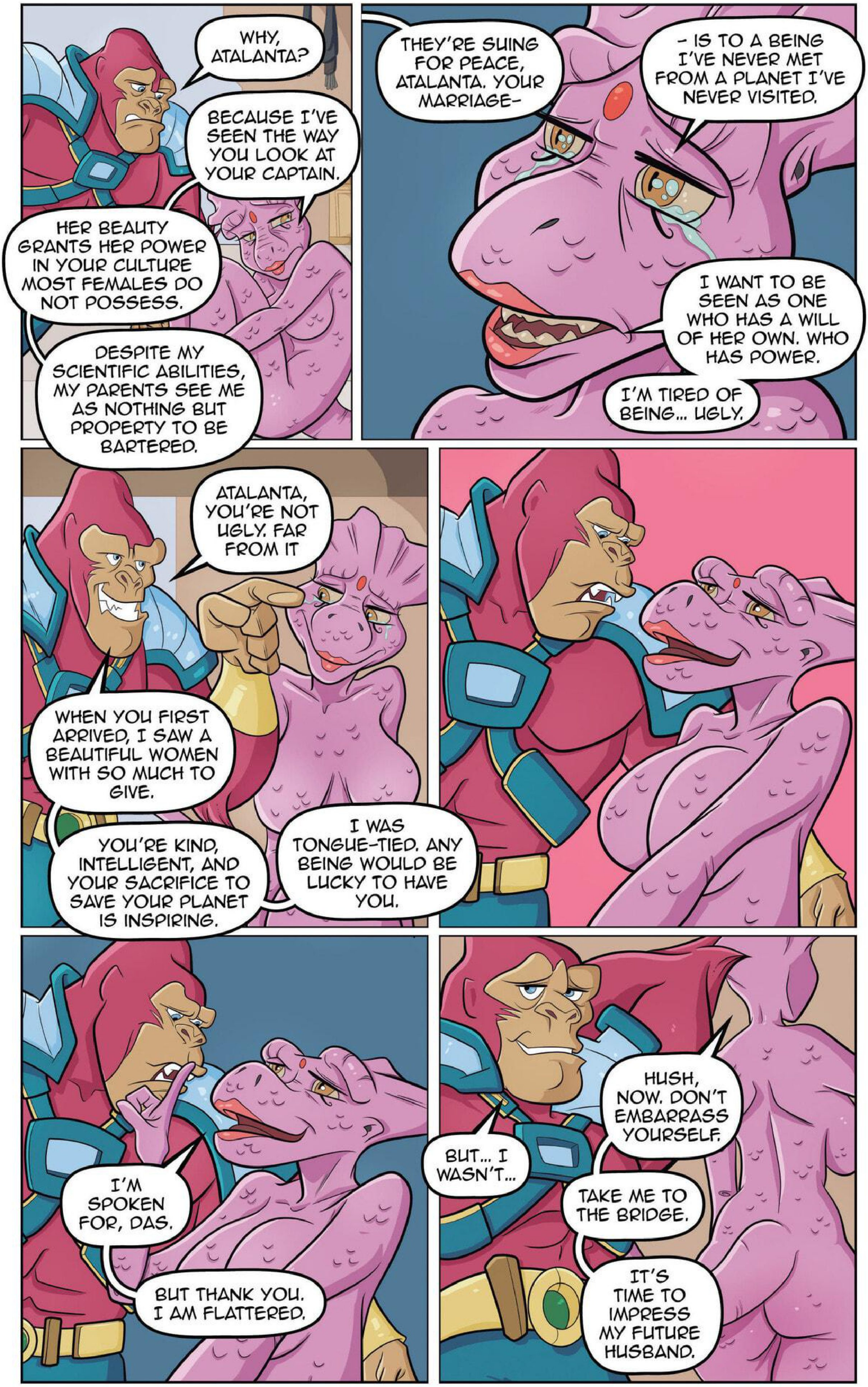

SO, THE IMT WORKS?
YEAH, IT WORKS.
THE ROBO-DOC SAYS I'M GOOD. BETTER THAN EVER, EVEN.
HMM. THESE SEEM PERKIER TO YOU?
AH, WELL... STILL NO SIGN OF AGGRESSION FROM THE REPTOIDS?
NO, EXCEPT FOR OUR LITTLE SIDE TRIP, WE'VE BEEN AT HIGH WARP.
AND PRINCESS ATALANTA'S EXPERIMENTS?
HAS THE COMPUTER FINISHED COMPILING THE DATA?
YES. THE FINDINGS ARE PROMISING, BUT PRINCESS...
SHE'S BEEN AT IT FOR DAYS. I ASSUME THAT SHE'S WORKING, ANYWAY.
WE HAVEN'T SEEN HER, BUT SHE'S SURE DRAINING THE SHIP'S RESERVE POWER AND TYING UP THE COMPUTER SERVER.
DON'T TRY TO TALK ME OUT OF IT, RAK.
I WANT THIS. I NEED THIS.
I CAN'T DECLARE MY LOVE FOR HIM LOOKING LIKE... LIKE...
YOU CAN. YOU MUST. IT'S YOUR DUTY.
OUR PEOPLE DEPEND ON THIS UNION.
NO MORE ATTACKS ON OUR BORDER WORLDS, NO MORE SENSELESS DEATH.
IT'S NOT FAIR, RAK. MAYBE I DON'T WANT THIS.

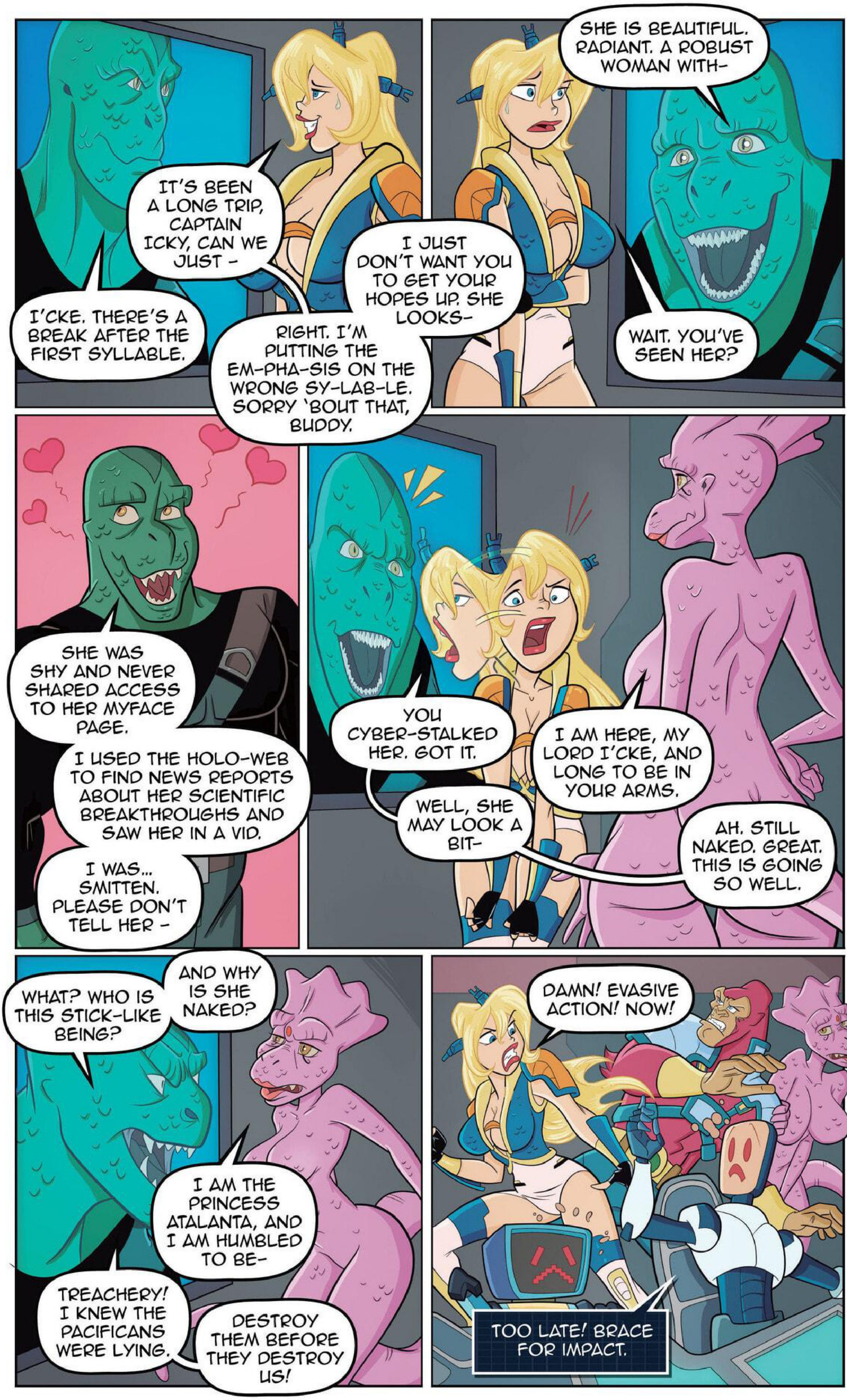

YOU ARE AS THE GODS MADE YOU AND AS BEAUTIFUL AS THE DAWN.
EYES LIDLESS AND CLEAR.
WITH BREASTS AS FULL AS THE-
EW! ENOUGH!
ARE YOU GOING TO HELP ME, OR DO I HAVE TO THIS ALONE?
AS YOU DESIRE, PRINCESS.
SPOOLING THE SEQUENCE NOW.
VRRRRM
MAY THE GODS FORGIVE US OUR TRANSGRESSIONS.
YOU'RE DOING A GOOD THING, CAPTAIN DANIELS.
YOU'LL BE PROVIDING STABILITY TO A LARGE SECTOR OF SPACE WHILE PIONEERING A NEW MODE OF TRAVEL THAT-
WHAT IS IT?
NOT SURE. BETTER CALL YOU BACK.
MIKKI? THE LIGHTS ARE OUT IN MY QUARTERS AND-
CAPTAIN! THERE'S A POWER SURGE EMANATING FROM THE CARGO BAY.
WE'RE RUNNING ON AUXILIARY POWER FOR LIFE SUPPORT!
DAMN IT! HAVE DAS MEET ME DOWN THERE NOW!

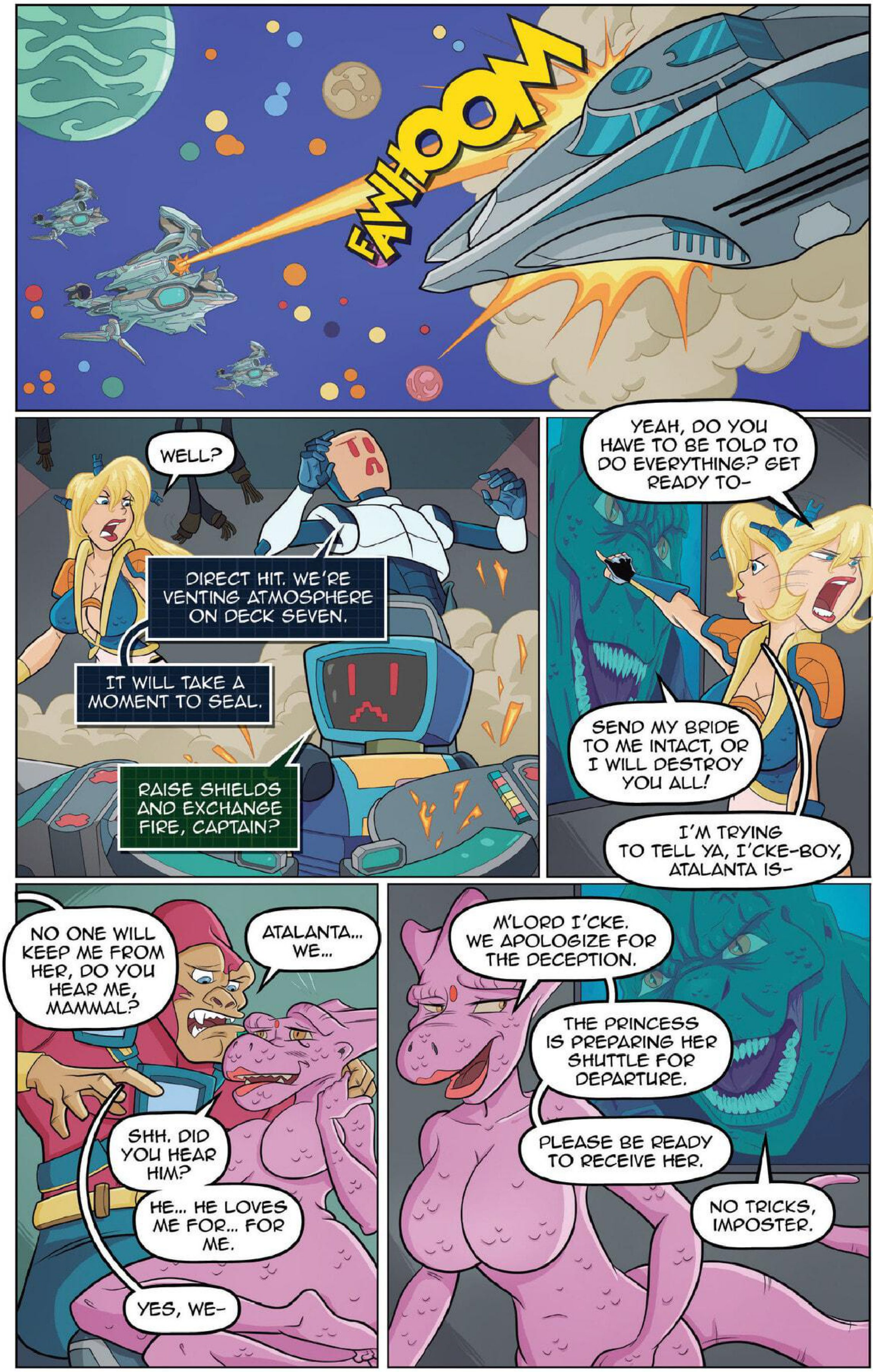

DAS! WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON IN THERE!
VRRRRM
I DON'T KNOW! I HAVEN'T SEEN THE PRINCESS SINCE SHE TESTED THE IMT ON YOU...
...AND NEITHER RAK OR RUK ARE ANSWERING COMMS.
WHAT THE HELL? SHUT IT DOWN, RAK!
YOU'RE DRAINING OUR POWER. SHUT IT DOWN, NOW!
A MOMENT LONGER, CAPTAIN, PLEASE!
THE SEQUENCE IS ALMOST COMPLETE AND-
VRRRRM
I SAID: SHUT. IT. DOWN.
RUK?
WHAM
UNGH.
THUDD
HOLD STILL, YA FREAKY PINK- UNGH.

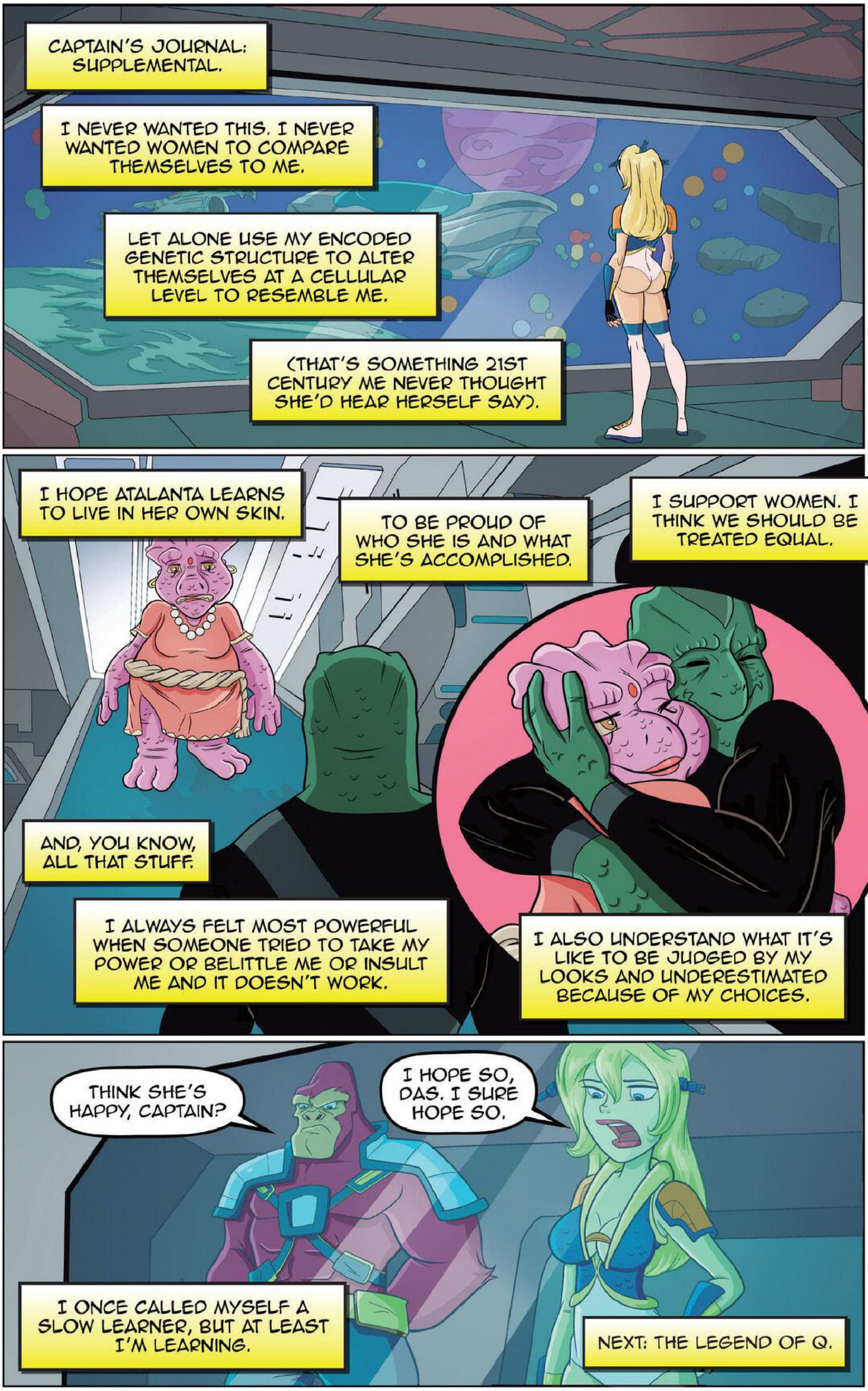

I WILL KILL YOU.
GET OFF ME!
THAT'S ENOUGH, RUK. LET HIM GO.
ATALANTA?
WHAT THE HELL?
DAS, WHAT'D YOU DO TO ATALANTA?
YOU MAY ADDRESS ME AS "YOUR HIGHNESS."
ALERT
ALERT
DAMN IT!
NOTHING! I SWEAR!
I GOTTA GET TO THE BRIDGE.
HANDLE THIS.


CAM, STATUS REPORT.
WE ARE BEING HAILED, CAPTAIN.
A REPTOID WARSHIP, MONITOR-CLASS, IS APPROACHING AT SUB-LIGHT SPEED WITH WEAPONS PRIMED.
ON SCREEN, MIKKI.
LET'S SEE WHO IT IS.
OH, I BET WE KNOW WHO IT IS.
ALIEN WARSHIP. YOU HAVE THE HONOR OF BEING DESTROYED BY CAPTAIN I'CKE OF THE REPTOID HEGEMONY.
I WILL GIVE A MOMENT TO OFFER SUPPLICATION AND PRAYERS TO YOUR DEITY.
WELL, THIS IS CAPTAIN STORMY DANIELS, AND YOU CAN SHOVE YOUR PLATITUDES STRAIGHT UP UNDER YOUR TAIL.
TRY IT, SCALY.
HOLD.
YOU BRING MY CONSORT? BRING HER TO ME. AT ONCE!
JUST A MOMENT, CAPTAIN. I-
UH... SURE... LET ME... UH, GIVE HER A CALL.
DAS? I COULD USE PRINCESS HIGH-AND-MIGHTY ON BRIDGE RIGHT NOW...
HURRY, DAS! WE'RE ABOUT TO START A WAR!

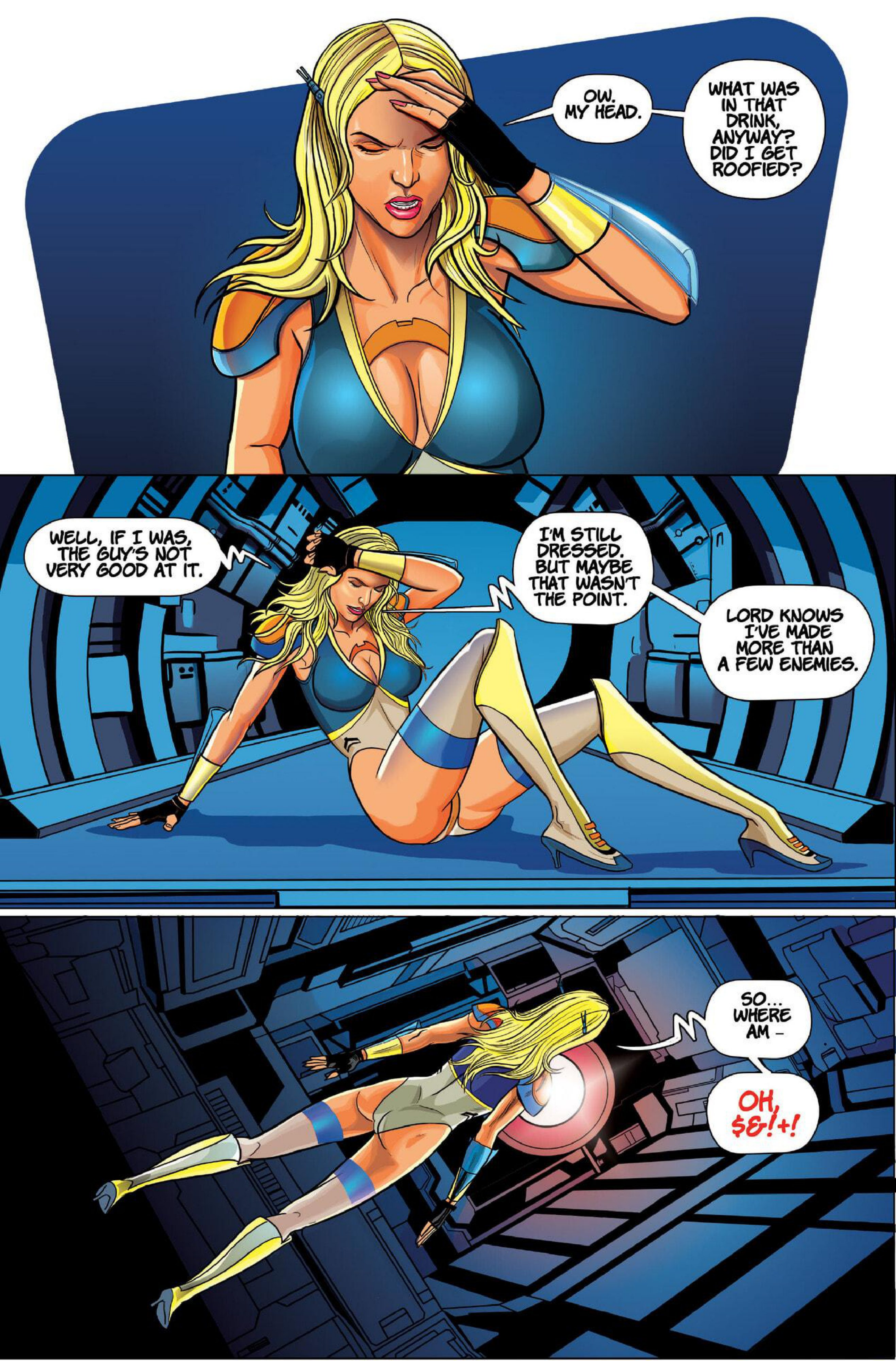

WHY, ATALANTA?
BECAUSE I'VE SEEN THE WAY YOU LOOK AT YOUR CAPTAIN.
HER BEAUTY GRANTS HER POWER IN YOUR CULTURE MOST FEMALES DO NOT POSSESS.
DESPITE MY SCIENTIFIC ABILITIES, MY PARENTS SEE ME AS NOTHING BUT PROPERTY TO BE BARTERED.
THEY'RE SUING FOR PEACE, ATALANTA. YOUR MARRIAGE-
- IS TO A BEING I'VE NEVER MET FROM A PLANET I'VE NEVER VISITED.
I WANT TO BE SEEN AS ONE WHO HAS A WILL OF HER OWN. WHO HAS POWER.
I'M TIRED OF BEING... UGLY.
ATALANTA, YOU'RE NOT UGLY. FAR FROM IT
WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED, I SAW A BEAUTIFUL WOMEN WITH SO MUCH TO GIVE.
YOU'RE KIND, INTELLIGENT, AND YOUR SACRIFICE TO SAVE YOUR PLANET IS INSPIRING.
I WAS TONGUE-TIED. ANY BEING WOULD BE LUCKY TO HAVE YOU.
I'M SPOKEN FOR, DAS.
BUT THANK YOU. I AM FLATTERED.
BUT... I WASN'T...
HUSH, NOW. DON'T EMBARRASS YOURSELF.
TAKE ME TO THE BRIDGE.
IT'S TIME TO IMPRESS MY FUTURE HUSBAND.

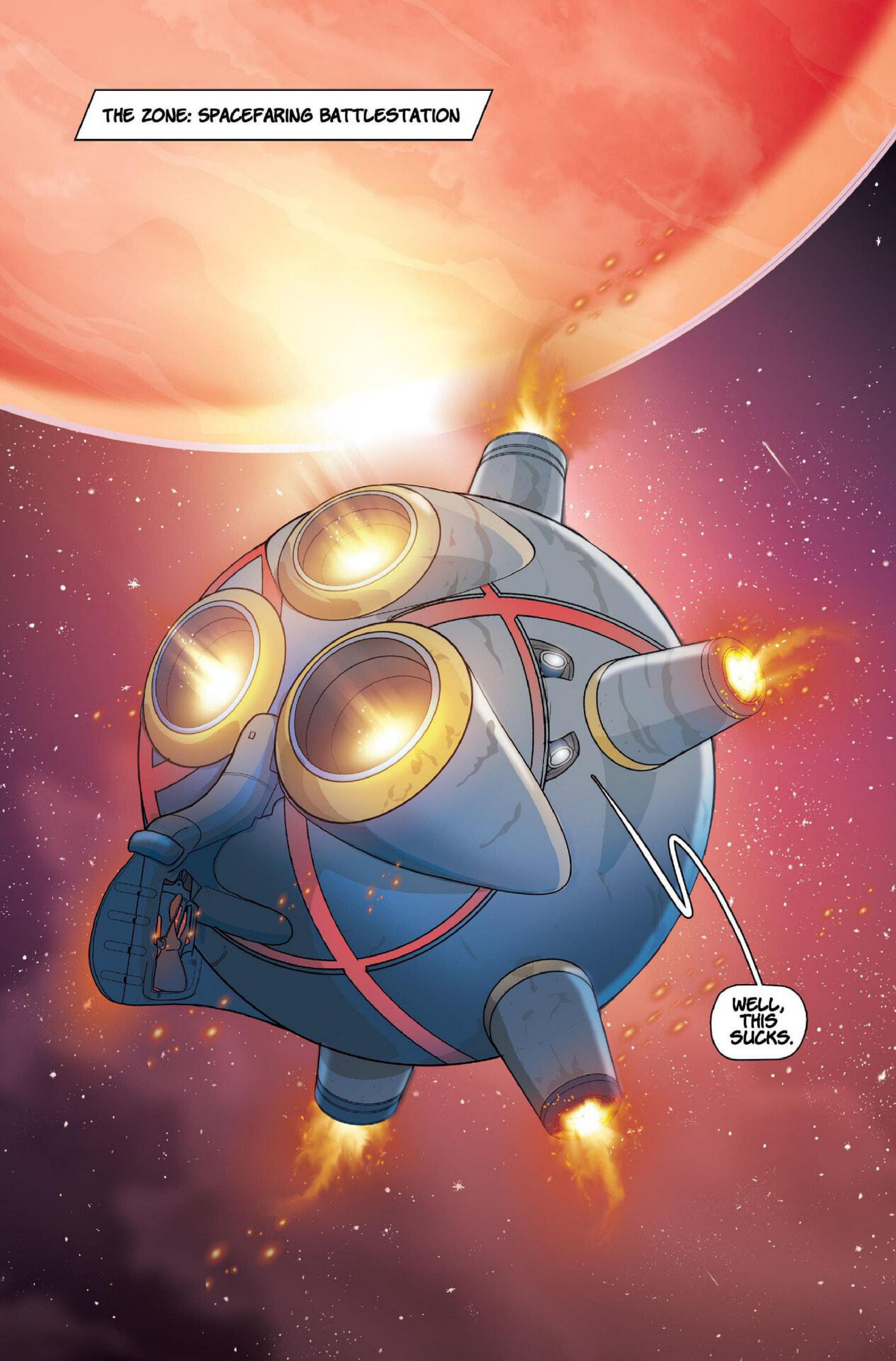

IT'S BEEN A LONG TRIP, CAPTAIN ICKY, CAN WE JUST –
I'CKE. THERE'S A BREAK AFTER THE FIRST SYLLABLE.
RIGHT. I'M PUTTING THE EM-PHA-SIS ON THE WRONG SY-LAB-LE. SORRY 'BOUT THAT, BUDDY.
I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO GET YOUR HOPES UP. SHE LOOKS-
SHE IS BEAUTIFUL. RADIANT. A ROBUST WOMAN WITH-
WAIT. YOU'VE SEEN HER?
SHE WAS SHY AND NEVER SHARED ACCESS TO HER MYFACE PAGE.
I USED THE HOLO-WEB TO FIND NEWS REPORTS ABOUT HER SCIENTIFIC BREAKTHROUGHS AND SAW HER IN A VID.
I WAS... SMITTEN. PLEASE DON'T TELL HER –
YOU CYBER-STALKED HER. GOT IT.
WELL, SHE MAY LOOK A BIT-
I AM HERE, MY LORD I'CKE, AND LONG TO BE IN YOUR ARMS.
AH. STILL NAKED. GREAT. THIS IS GOING SO WELL.
WHAT? WHO IS THIS STICK-LIKE BEING?
AND WHY IS SHE NAKED?
I AM THE PRINCESS ATALANTA, AND I AM HUMBLED TO BE-
TREACHERY! I KNEW THE PACIFICANS WERE LYING.
DESTROY THEM BEFORE THEY DESTROY US!
DAMN! EVASIVE ACTION! NOW!
TOO LATE! BRACE FOR IMPACT.

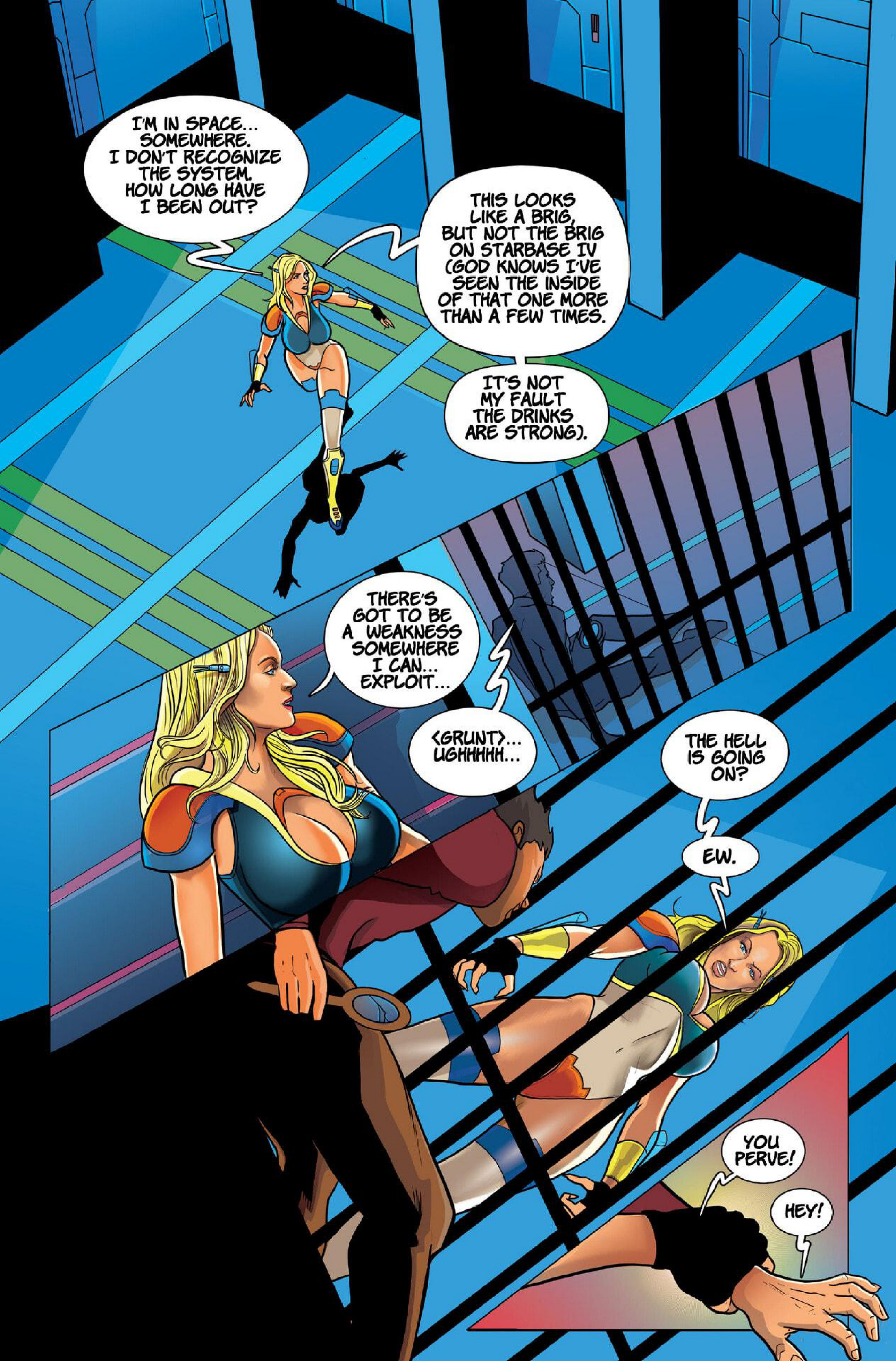

FWHOOM
WELL?
DIRECT HIT. WE'RE VENTING ATMOSPHERE ON DECK SEVEN.
IT WILL TAKE A MOMENT TO SEAL.
RAISE SHIELDS AND EXCHANGE FIRE, CAPTAIN?
YEAH, DO YOU HAVE TO BE TOLD TO DO EVERYTHING? GET READY TO-
SEND MY BRIDE TO ME INTACT, OR I WILL DESTROY YOU ALL!
I'M TRYING TO TELL YA, I'CKE-BOY, ATALANTA IS-
NO ONE WILL KEEP ME FROM HER, DO YOU HEAR ME, MAMMAL?
ATALANTA... WE...
SHH. DID YOU HEAR HIM?
HE... HE LOVES ME FOR... FOR ME.
YES, WE-
M'LORD I'CKE. WE APOLOGIZE FOR THE DECEPTION.
THE PRINCESS IS PREPARING HER SHUTTLE FOR DEPARTURE.
PLEASE BE READY TO RECEIVE HER.
NO TRICKS, IMPOSTER.

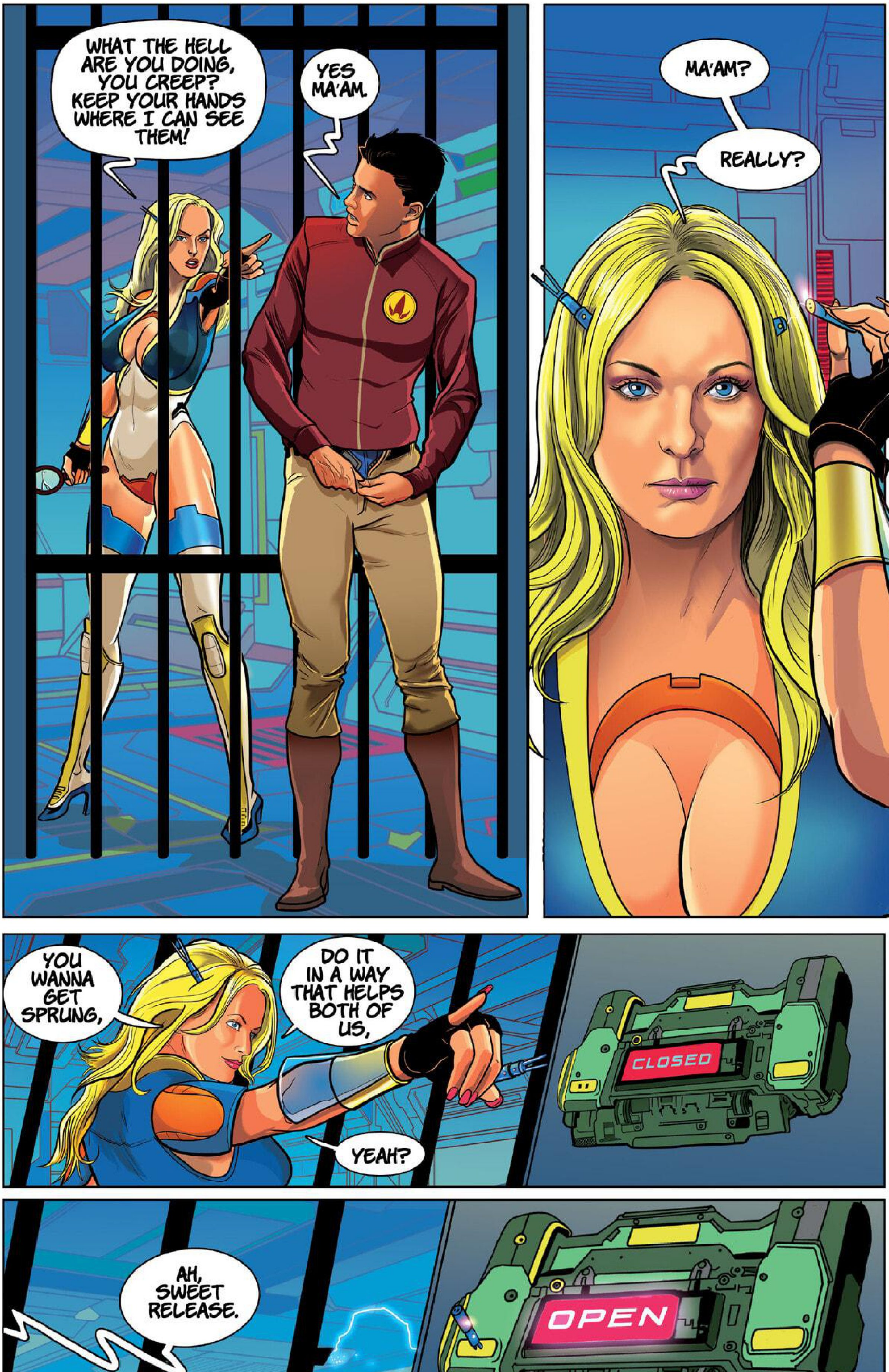

CAPTAIN'S JOURNAL: SUPPLEMENTAL.
I NEVER WANTED THIS. I NEVER WANTED WOMEN TO COMPARE THEMSELVES TO ME.
LET ALONE USE MY ENCODED GENETIC STRUCTURE TO ALTER THEMSELVES AT A CELLULAR LEVEL TO RESEMBLE ME.
(THAT'S SOMETHING 21ST CENTURY ME NEVER THOUGHT SHE'D HEAR HERSELF SAY).
I HOPE ATALANTA LEARNS TO LIVE IN HER OWN SKIN.
TO BE PROUD OF WHO SHE IS AND WHAT SHE'S ACCOMPLISHED.
I SUPPORT WOMEN. I THINK WE SHOULD BE TREATED EQUAL.
AND, YOU KNOW, ALL THAT STUFF.
I ALWAYS FELT MOST POWERFUL WHEN SOMEONE TRIED TO TAKE MY POWER OR BELITTLE ME OR INSULT ME AND IT DOESN'T WORK.
I ALSO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE JUDGED BY MY LOOKS AND UNDERESTIMATED BECAUSE OF MY CHOICES.
THINK SHE'S HAPPY, CAPTAIN?
I HOPE SO, DAS. I SURE HOPE SO.
I ONCE CALLED MYSELF A SLOW LEARNER, BUT AT LEAST I'M LEARNING.
NEXT: THE LEGEND OF Q.

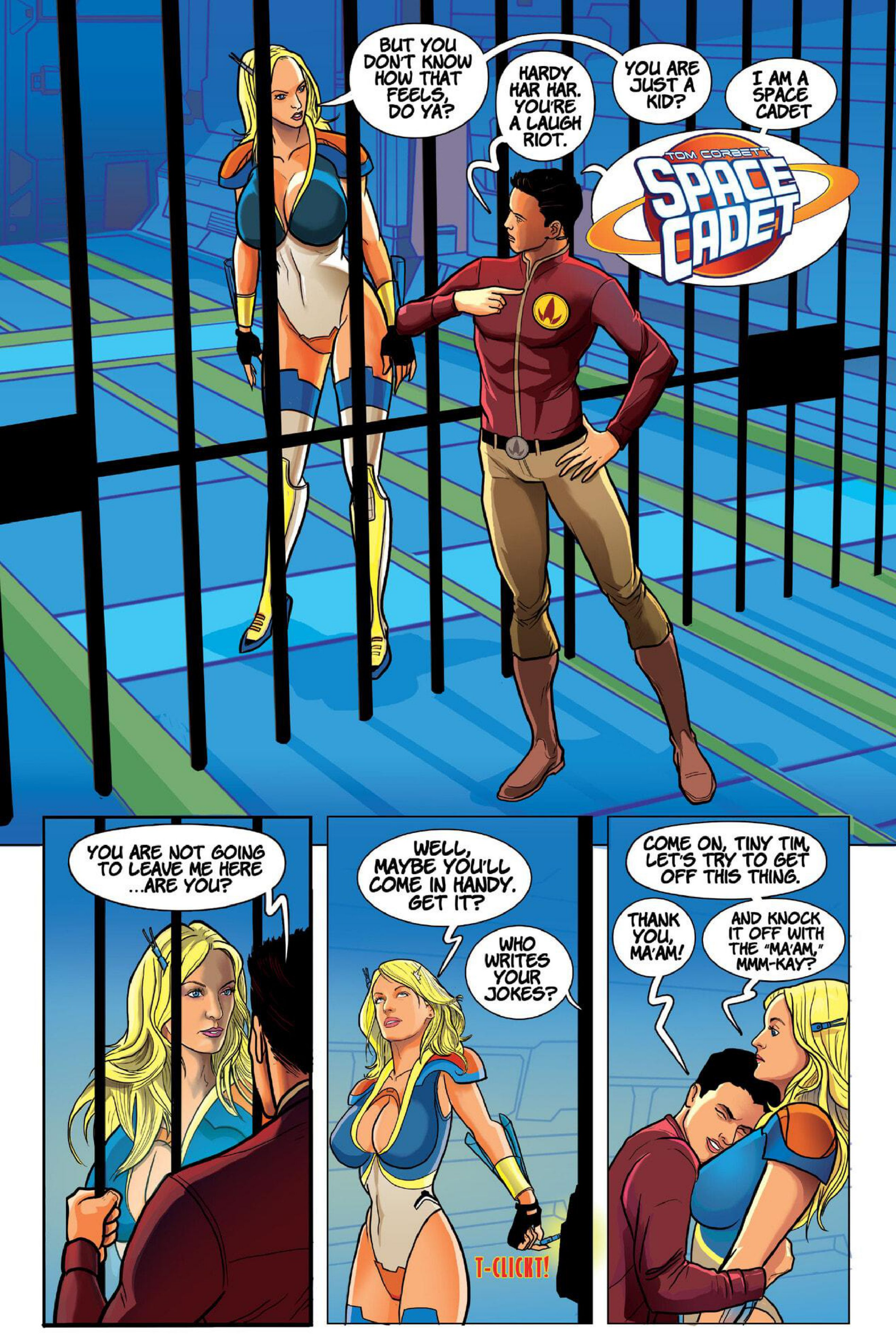
MISSION
SIX

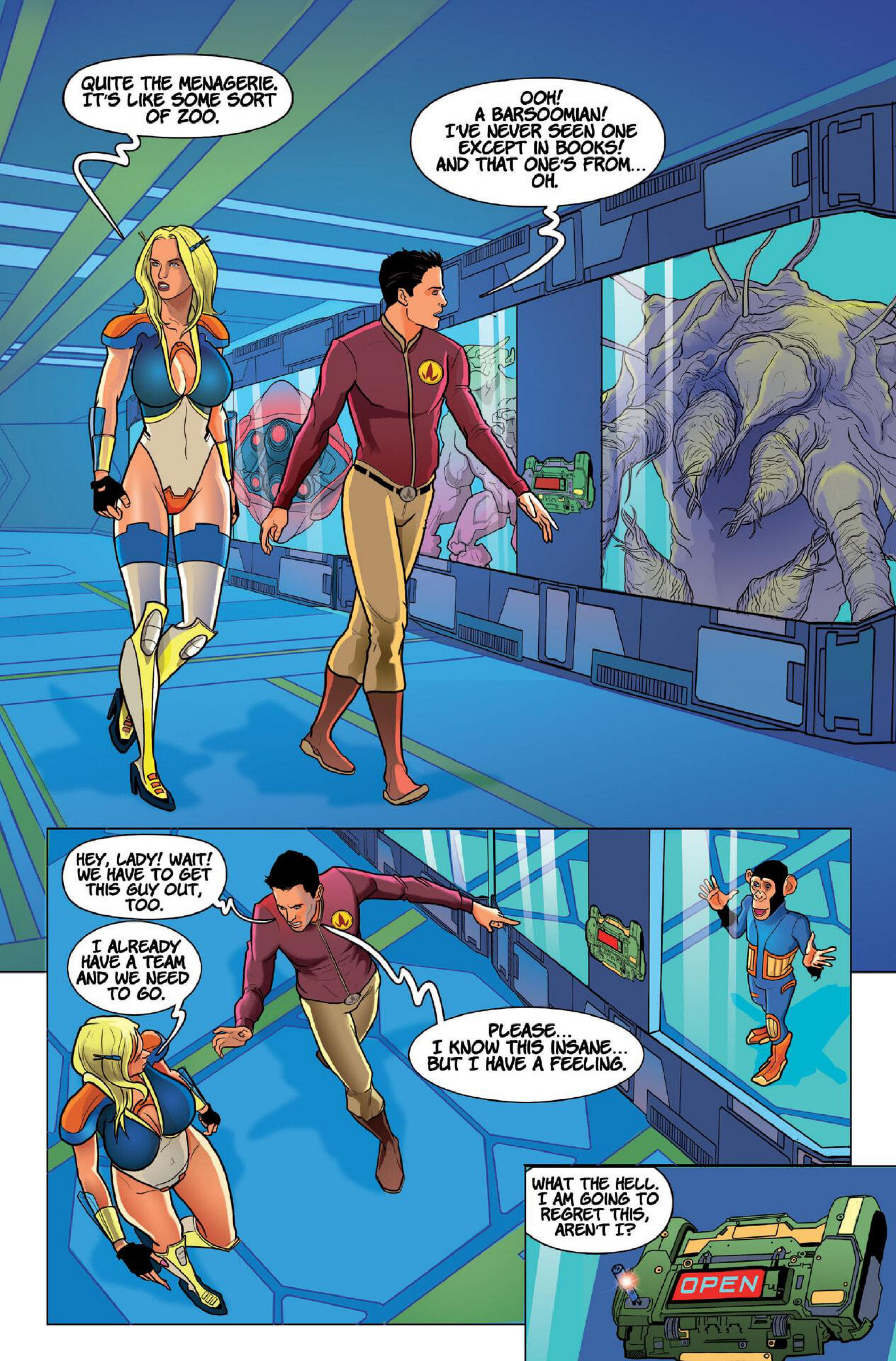

OW. MY HEAD.
WHAT WAS IN THAT DRINK, ANYWAY? DID I GET ROOFIED?
WELL, IF I WAS, THE GUY'S NOT VERY GOOD AT IT.
I'M STILL DRESSED. BUT MAYBE THAT WASN'T THE POINT.
LORD KNOWS I'VE MADE MORE THAN A FEW ENEMIES.
SO... WHERE AM –
OH, $&!+!

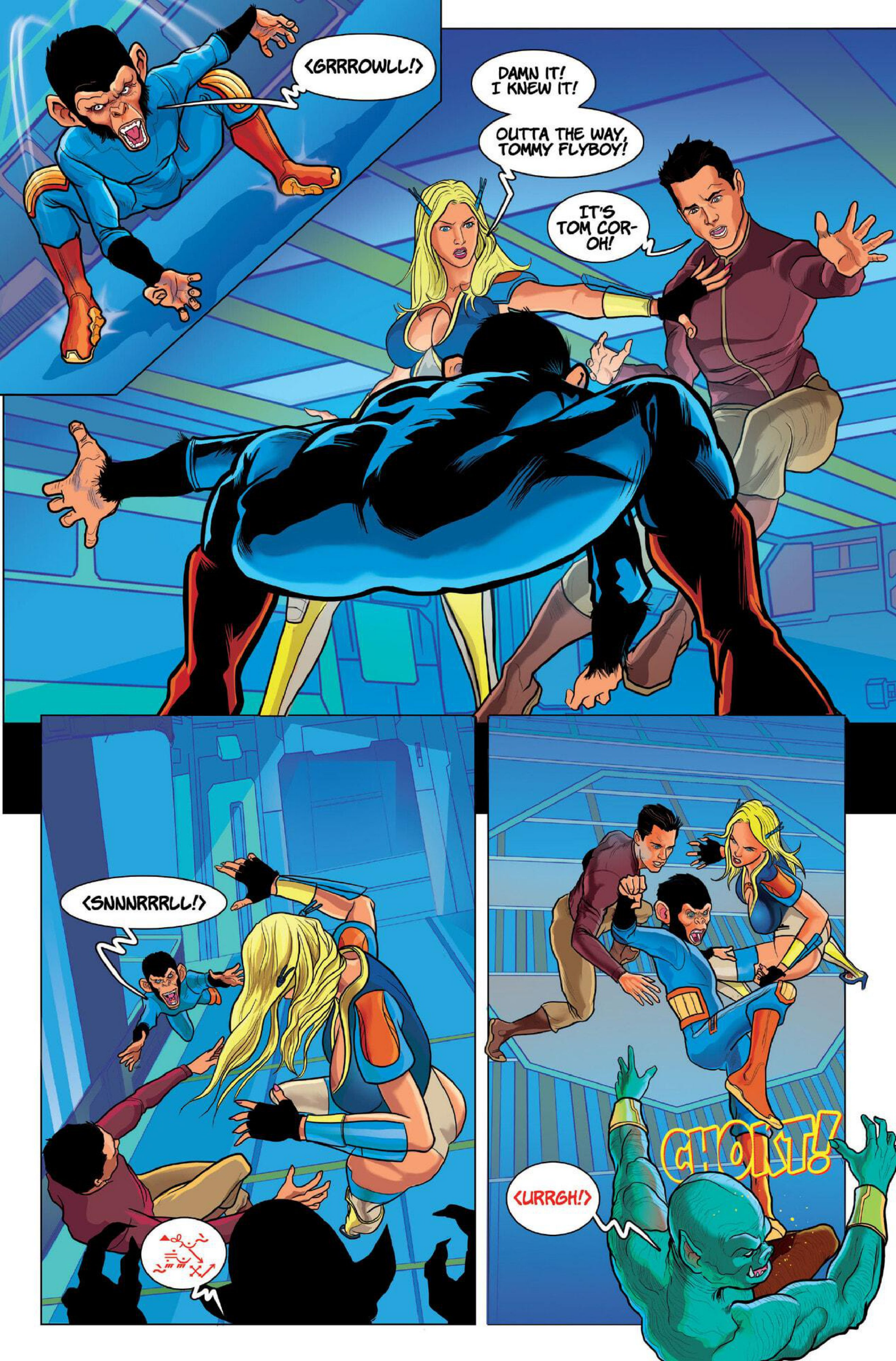

THE ZONE: SPACEFARING BATTLESTATION
WELL, THIS SUCKS.

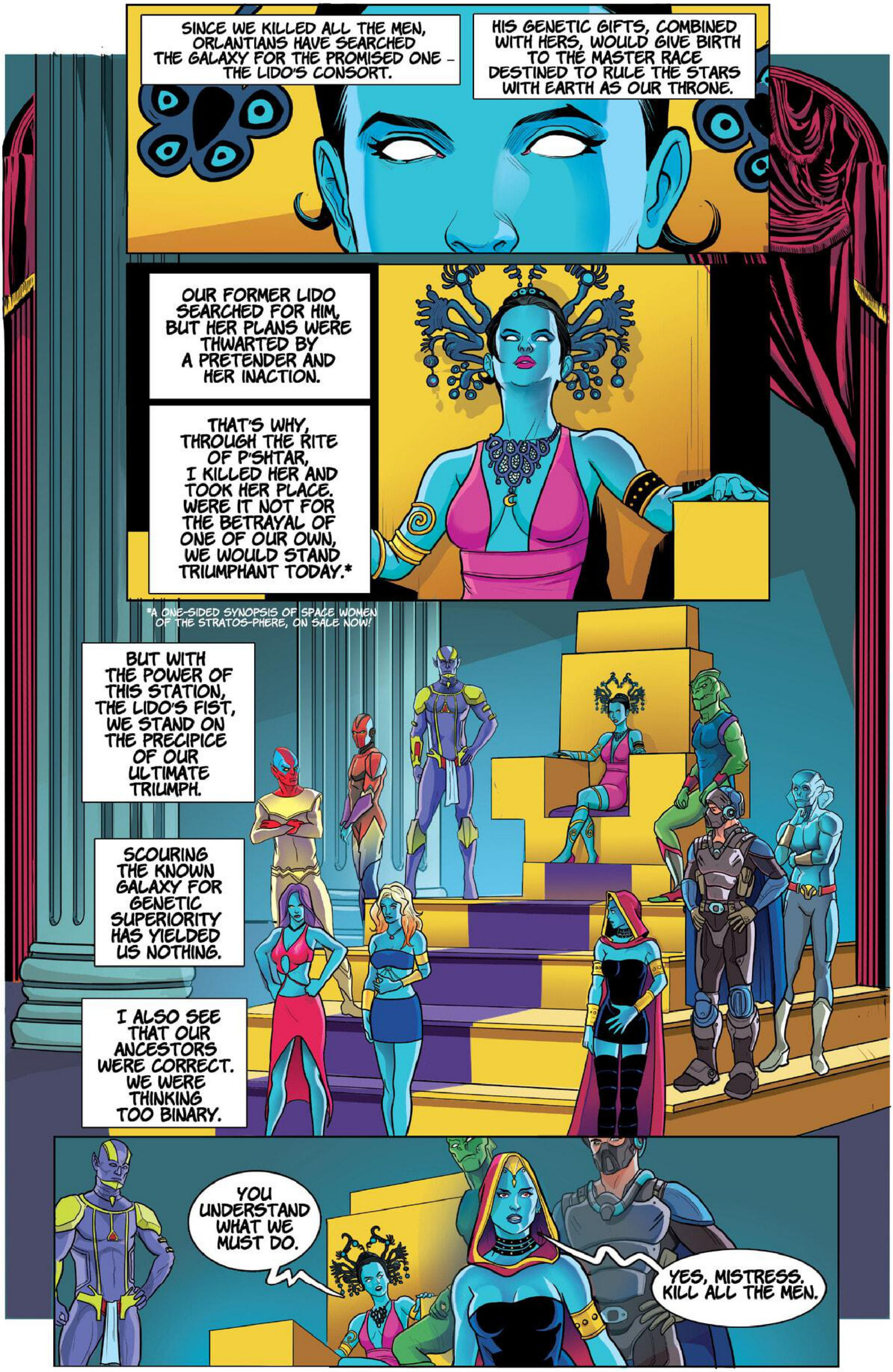

I'M IN SPACE... SOMEWHERE. I DON'T RECOGNIZE THE SYSTEM. HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN OUT?
THIS LOOKS LIKE A BRIG, BUT NOT THE BRIG ON STARBASE IV (GOD KNOWS I'VE SEEN THE INSIDE OF THAT ONE MORE THAN A FEW TIMES.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT THE DRINKS ARE STRONG).
THERE'S GOT TO BE A WEAKNESS SOMEWHERE I CAN... EXPLOIT...
<GRUNT>... UGHHHHH...
THE HELL IS GOING ON?
EW.
YOU PERVE!
HEY!

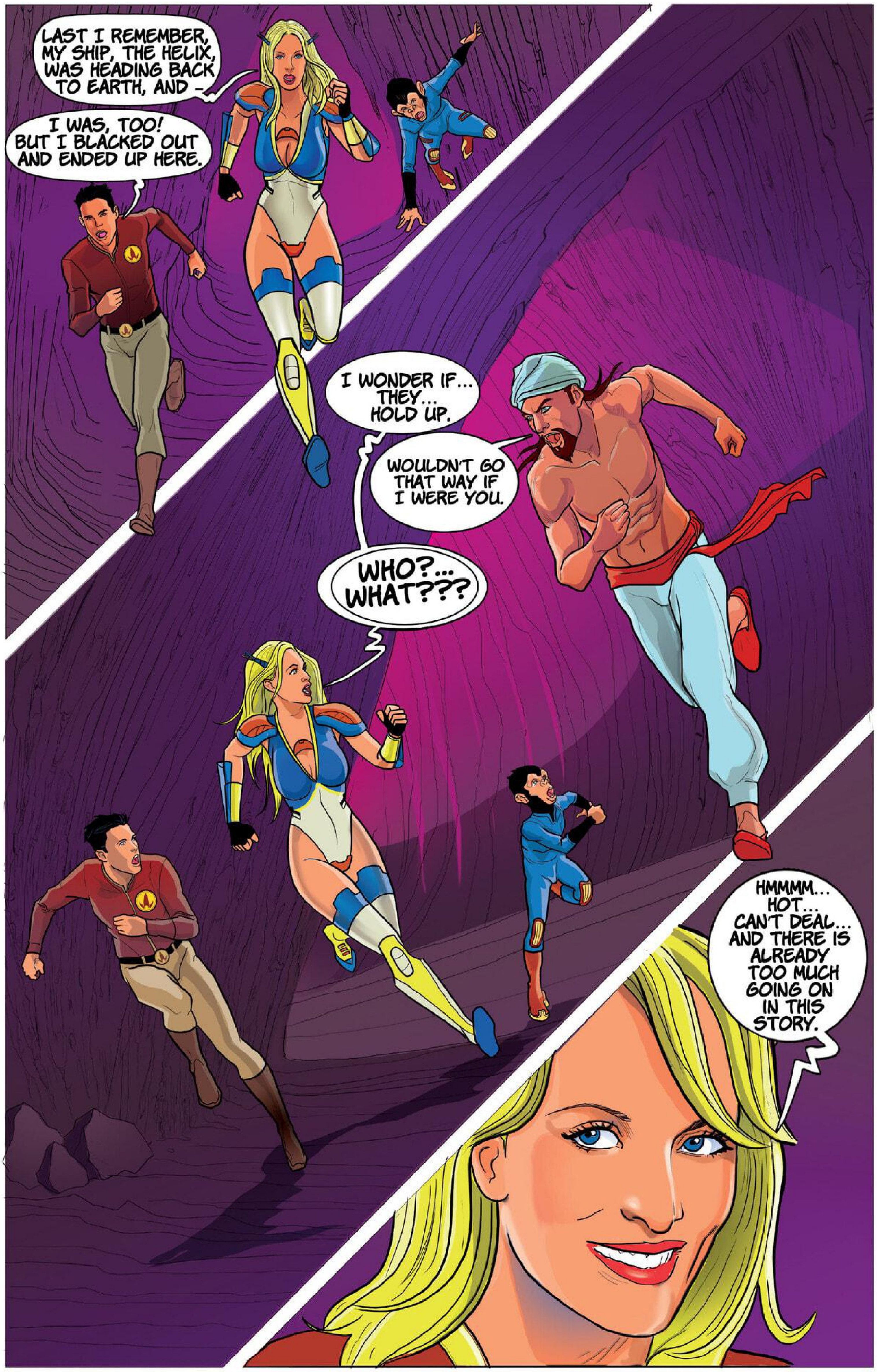

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, YOU CREEP? KEEP YOUR HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!
YES MA'AM.
MA'AM?
REALLY?
YOU WANNA GET SPRUNG,
DO IT IN A WAY THAT HELPS BOTH OF US,
YEAH?
CLOSED
AH, SWEET RELEASE.
OPEN

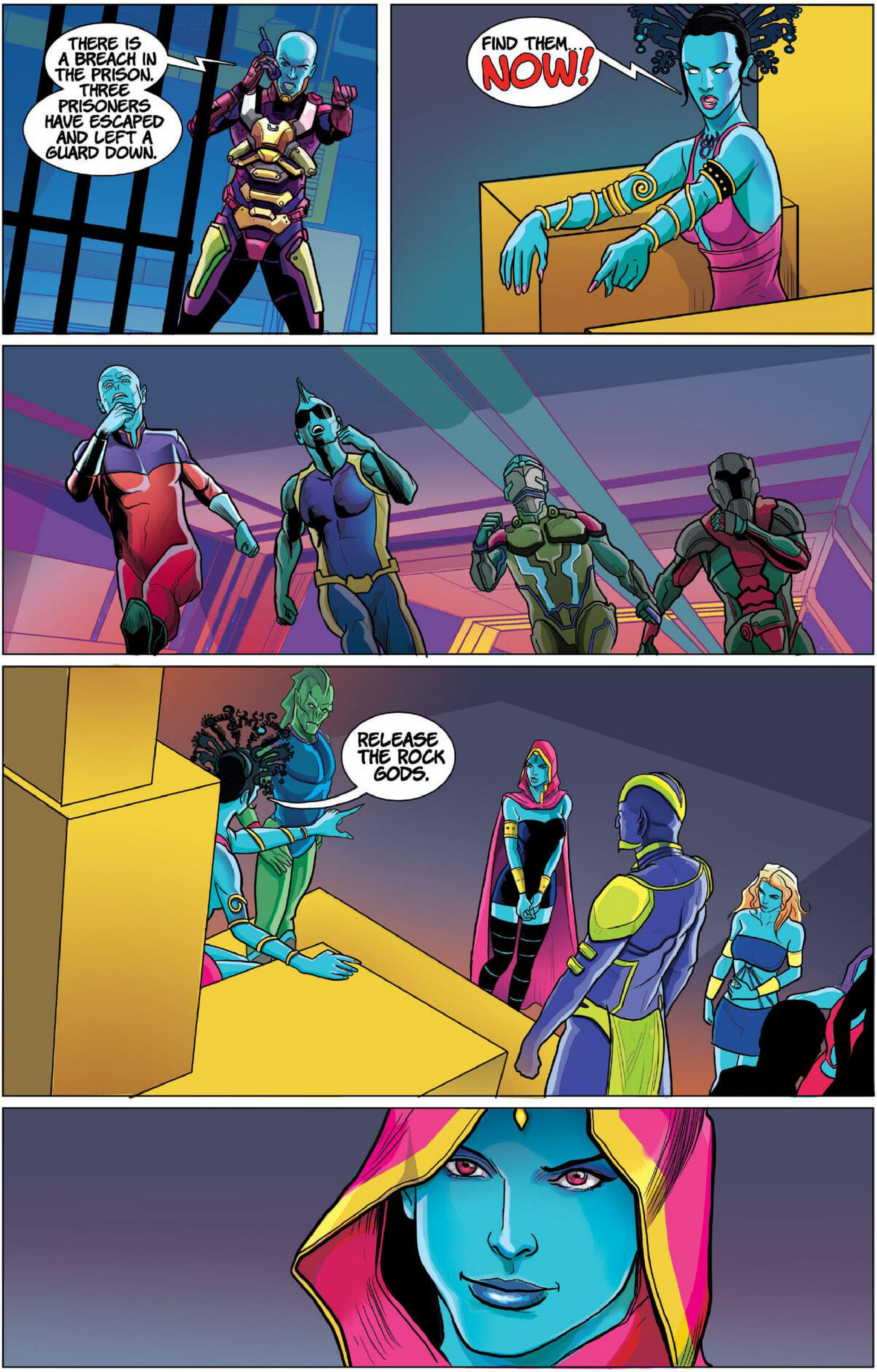

BUT YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THAT FEELS, DO YA?
HARDY HAR HAR. YOU'RE A LAUGH RIOT.
YOU ARE JUST A KID?
I AM A SPACE CADET
TOM CORBETT SPACE CADET
YOU ARE NOT GOING TO LEAVE ME HERE ...ARE YOU?
WELL, MAYBE YOU'LL COME IN HANDY. GET IT?
WHO WRITES YOUR JOKES?
T-CLICKT!
COME ON, TINY TIM, LET'S TRY TO GET OFF THIS THING.
THANK YOU, MA'AM!
AND KNOCK IT OFF WITH THE "MA'AM," MMM-KAY?

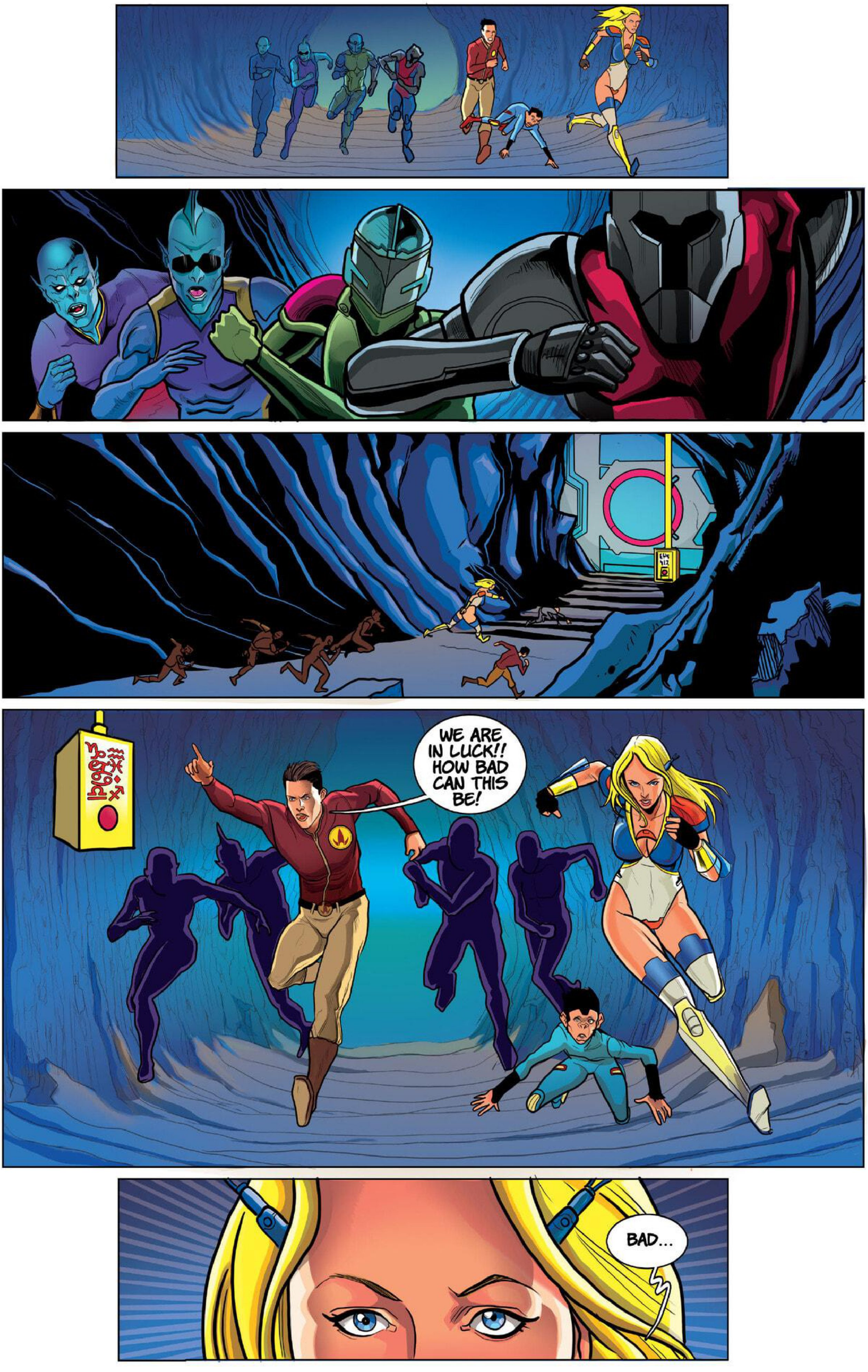

QUITE THE MENAGERIE. IT'S LIKE SOME SORT OF ZOO.
OOH! A BARSOOMIAN! I'VE NEVER SEEN ONE EXCEPT IN BOOKS! AND THAT ONE'S FROM... OH.
HEY, LADY! WAIT! WE HAVE TO GET THIS GUY OUT, TOO.
I ALREADY HAVE A TEAM AND WE NEED TO GO.
PLEASE... I KNOW THIS INSANE... BUT I HAVE A FEELING.
WHAT THE HELL. I AM GOING TO REGRET THIS, AREN'T I?
OPEN

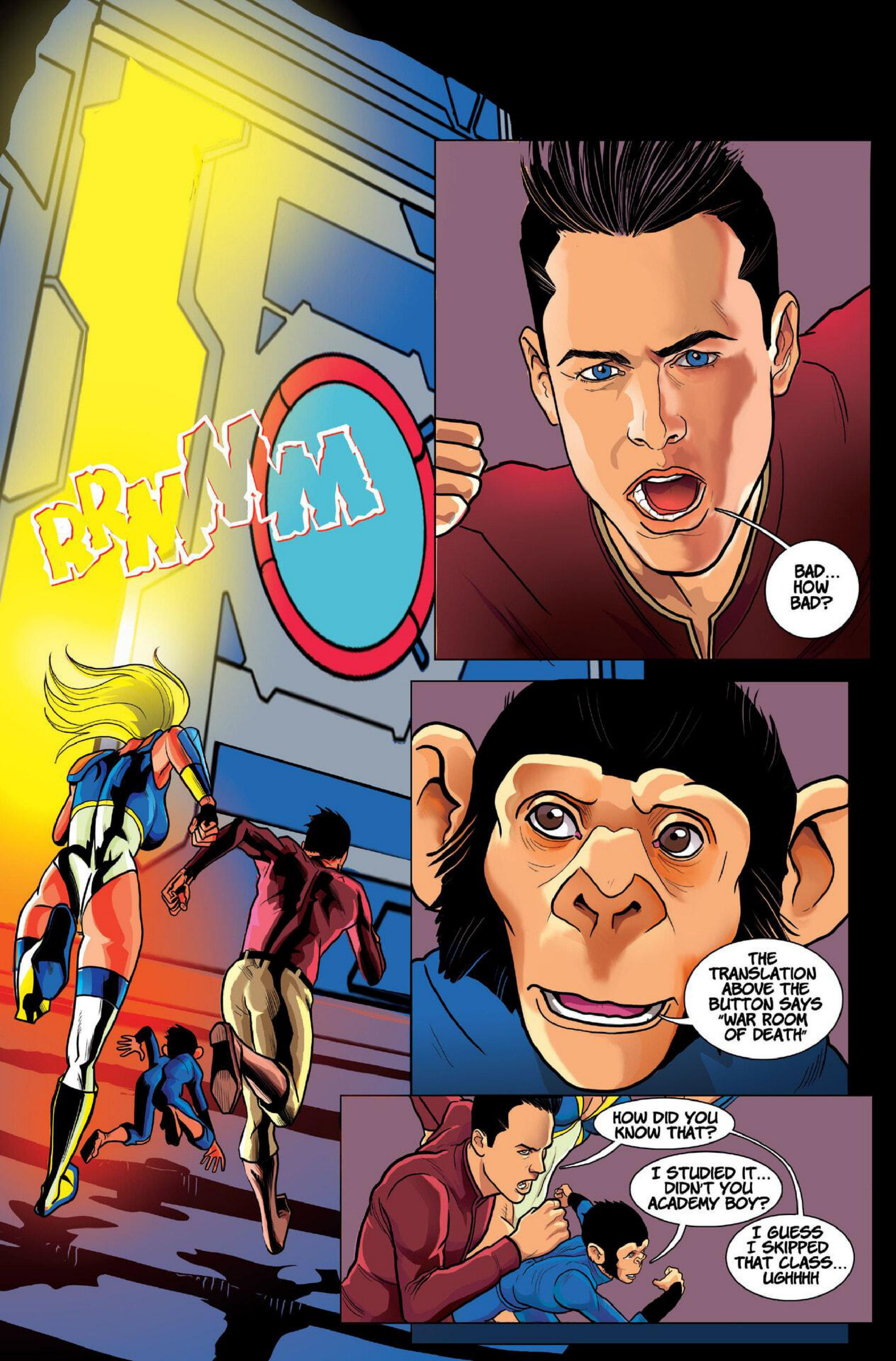

<GRRROWLL!>
DAMN IT! I KNEW IT!
OUTTA THE WAY, TOMMY FLYBOY!
IT'S TOM COR-OH!
<SNNNRRRLL!>
CHOKT!
<URRGH!>

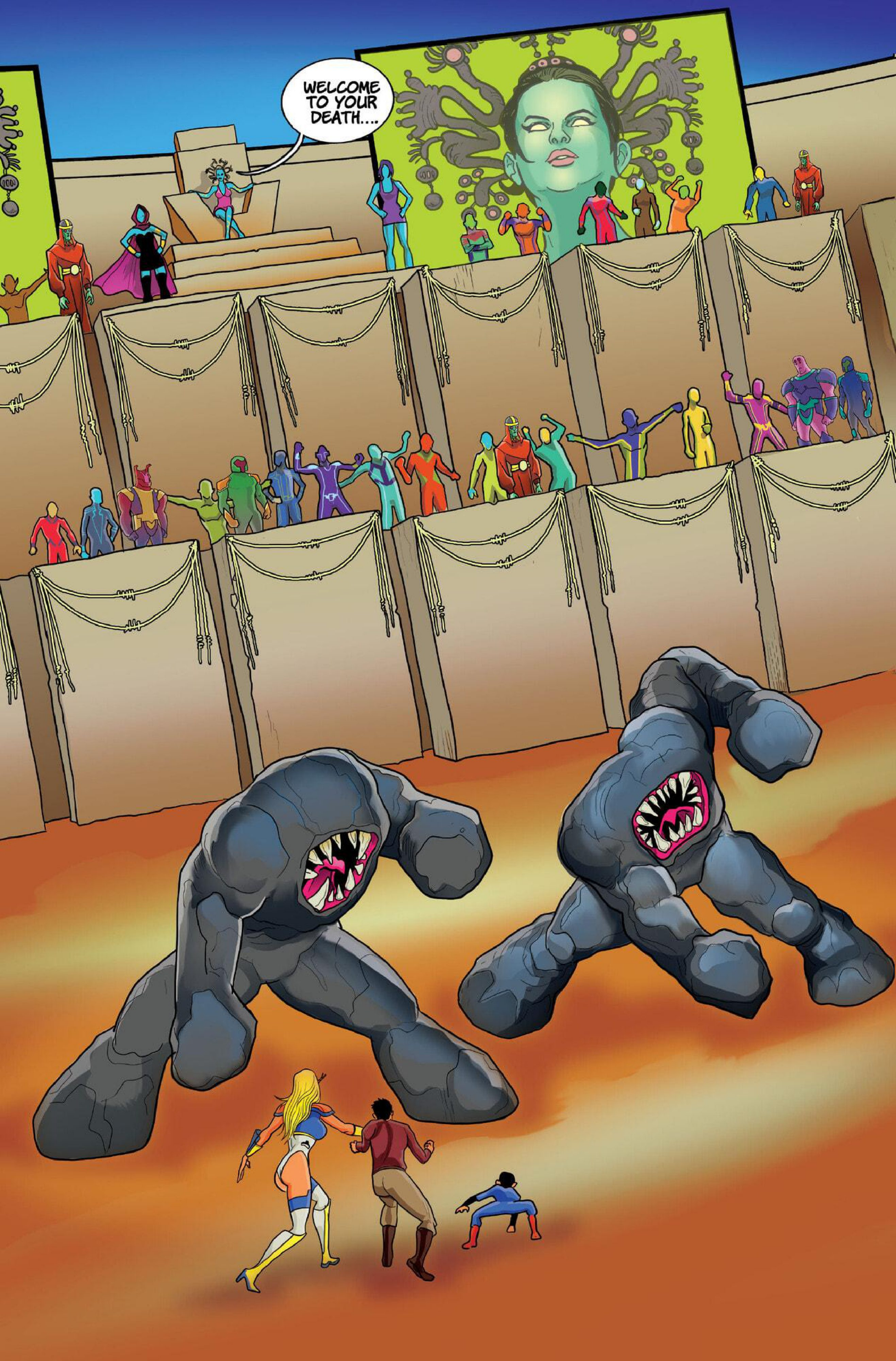

SINCE WE KILLED ALL THE MEN, ORLANTIANS HAVE SEARCHED THE GALAXY FOR THE PROMISED ONE – THE LIDO'S CONSORT.
HIS GENETIC GIFTS, COMBINED WITH HERS, WOULD GIVE BIRTH TO THE MASTER RACE DESTINED TO RULE THE STARS WITH EARTH AS OUR THRONE.
OUR FORMER LIDO SEARCHED FOR HIM, BUT HER PLANS WERE THWARTED BY A PRETENDER AND HER INACTION.
THAT'S WHY, THROUGH THE RITE OF P'SHTAR, I KILLED HER AND TOOK HER PLACE. WERE IT NOT FOR THE BETRAYAL OF ONE OF OUR OWN, WE WOULD STAND TRIUMPHANT TODAY.*
*A ONE-SIDED SYNOPSIS OF SPACE WOMEN OF THE STRATOS-PHERE, ON SALE NOW!
BUT WITH THE POWER OF THIS STATION, THE LIDO'S FIST, WE STAND ON THE PRECIPICE OF OUR ULTIMATE TRIUMPH.
SCOURING THE KNOWN GALAXY FOR GENETIC SUPERIORITY HAS YIELDED US NOTHING.
I ALSO SEE THAT OUR ANCESTORS WERE CORRECT. WE WERE THINKING TOO BINARY.
YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT WE MUST DO.
YES, MISTRESS. KILL ALL THE MEN.

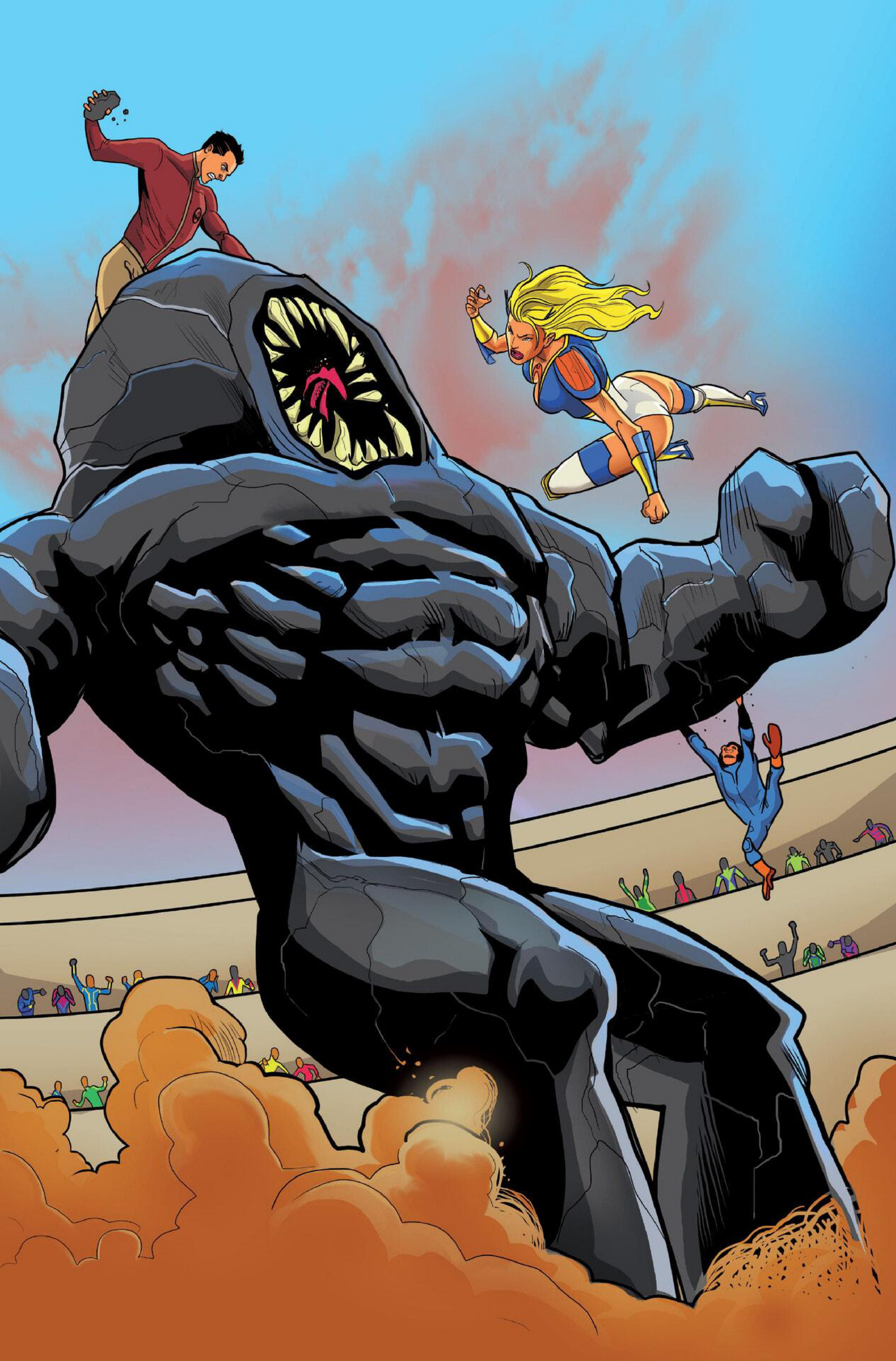

LAST I REMEMBER, MY SHIP, THE HELIX, WAS HEADING BACK TO EARTH, AND –
I WAS, TOO! BUT I BLACKED OUT AND ENDED UP HERE.
I WONDER IF... THEY... HOLD UP.
WOULDN'T GO THAT WAY IF I WERE YOU.
WHO?... WHAT???
HMMMM... HOT... CAN'T DEAL... AND THERE IS ALREADY TOO MUCH GOING ON IN THIS STORY.

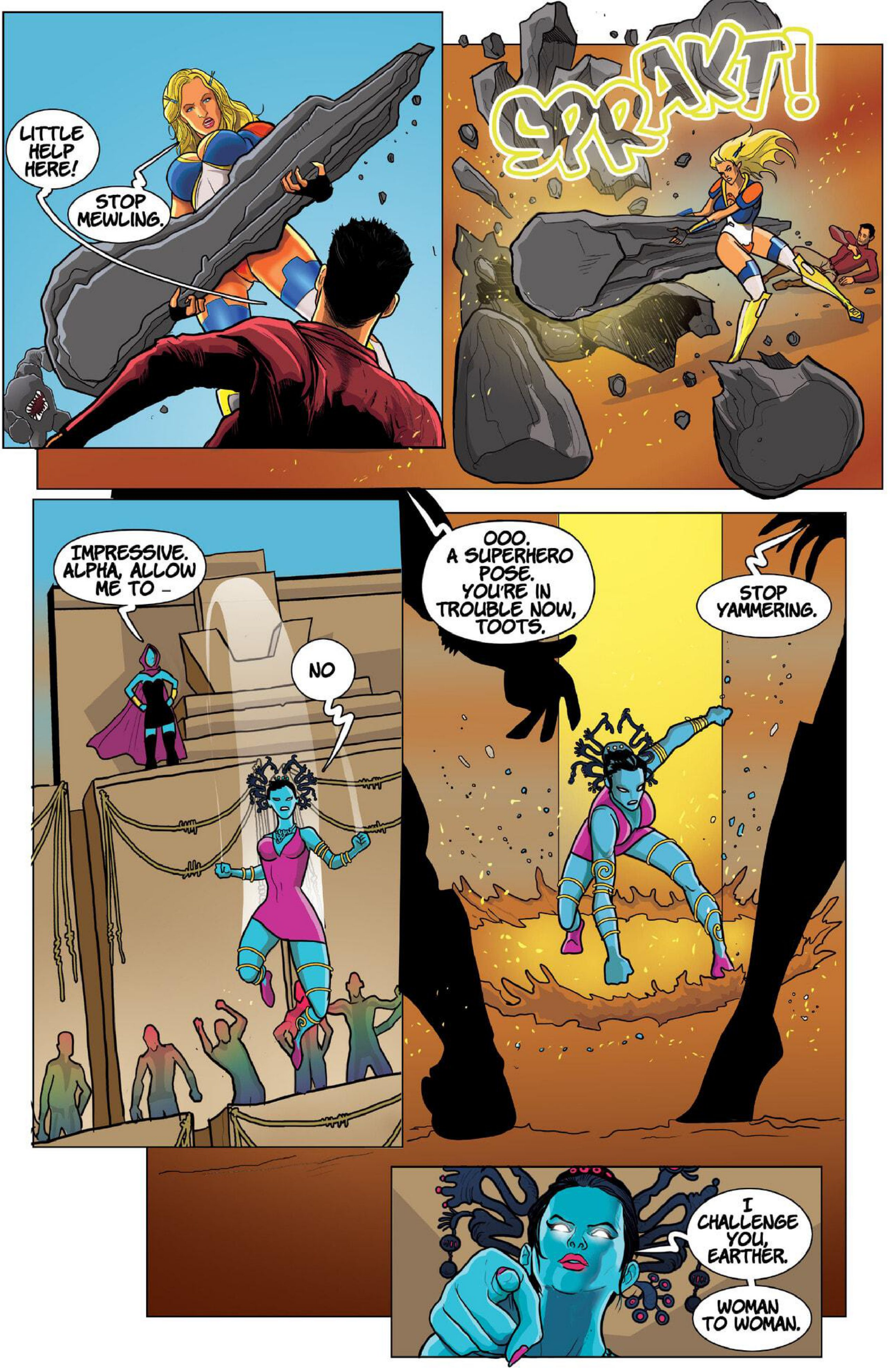

THERE IS A BREACH IN THE PRISON. THREE PRISONERS HAVE ESCAPED AND LEFT A GUARD DOWN.
FIND THEM... NOW!
RELEASE THE ROCK GODS.

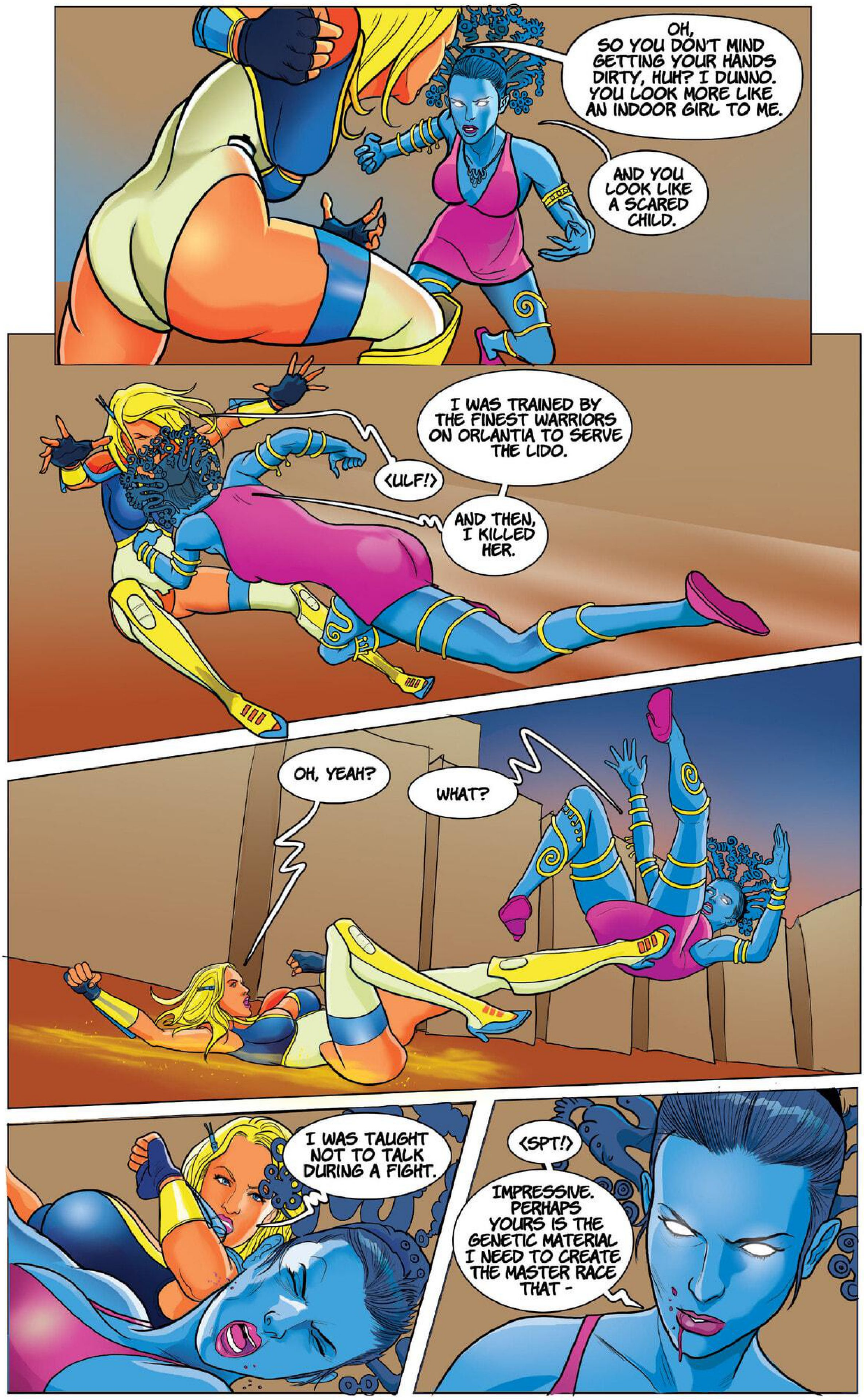

WE ARE IN LUCK!! HOW BAD CAN THIS BE!
BAD...

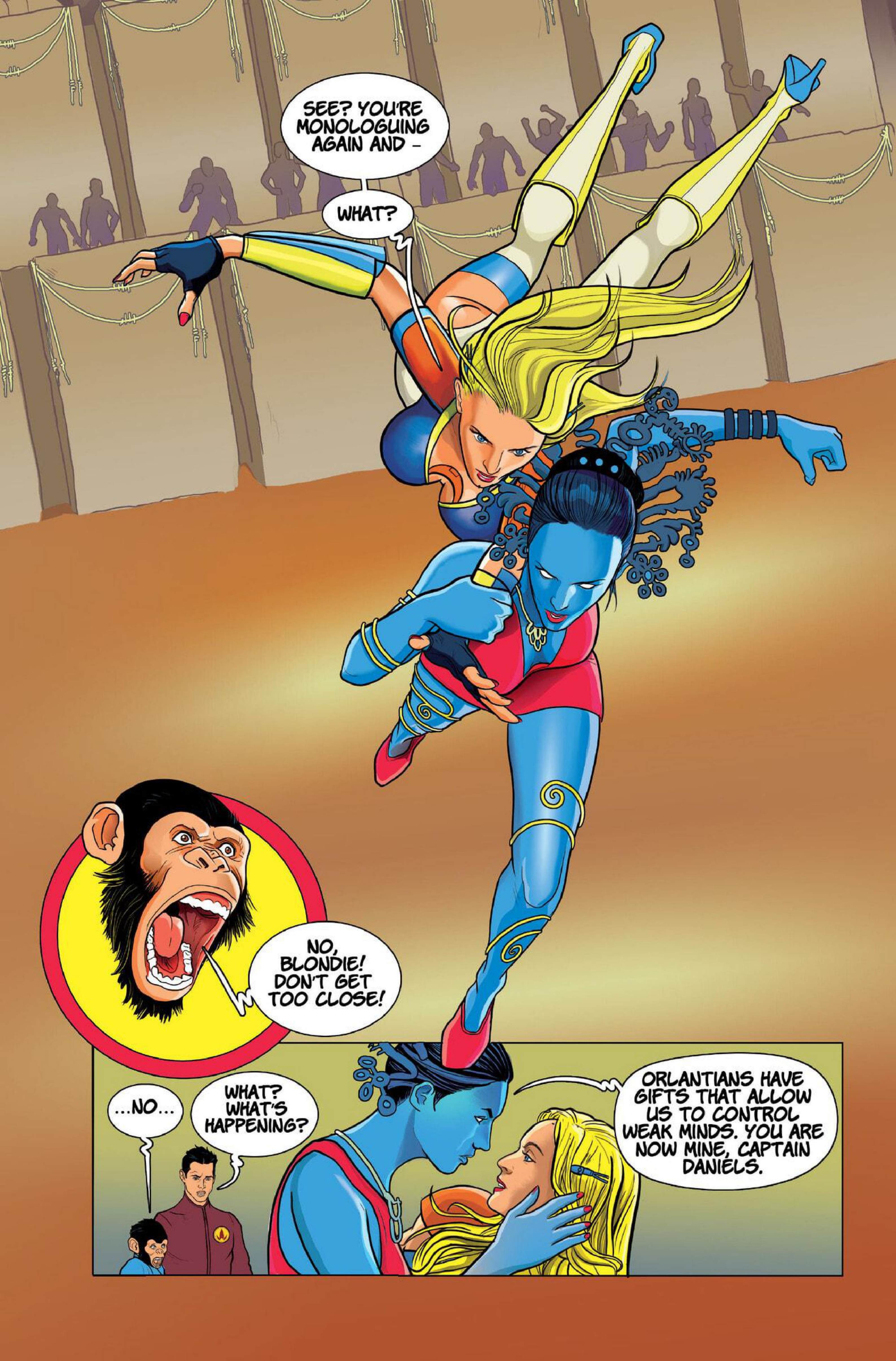

RRNNMM
BAD... HOW BAD?
THE TRANSLATION ABOVE THE BUTTON SAYS "WAR ROOM OF DEATH"
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?
I STUDIED IT... DIDN'T YOU ACADEMY BOY?
I GUESS I SKIPPED THAT CLASS... UGHHHH

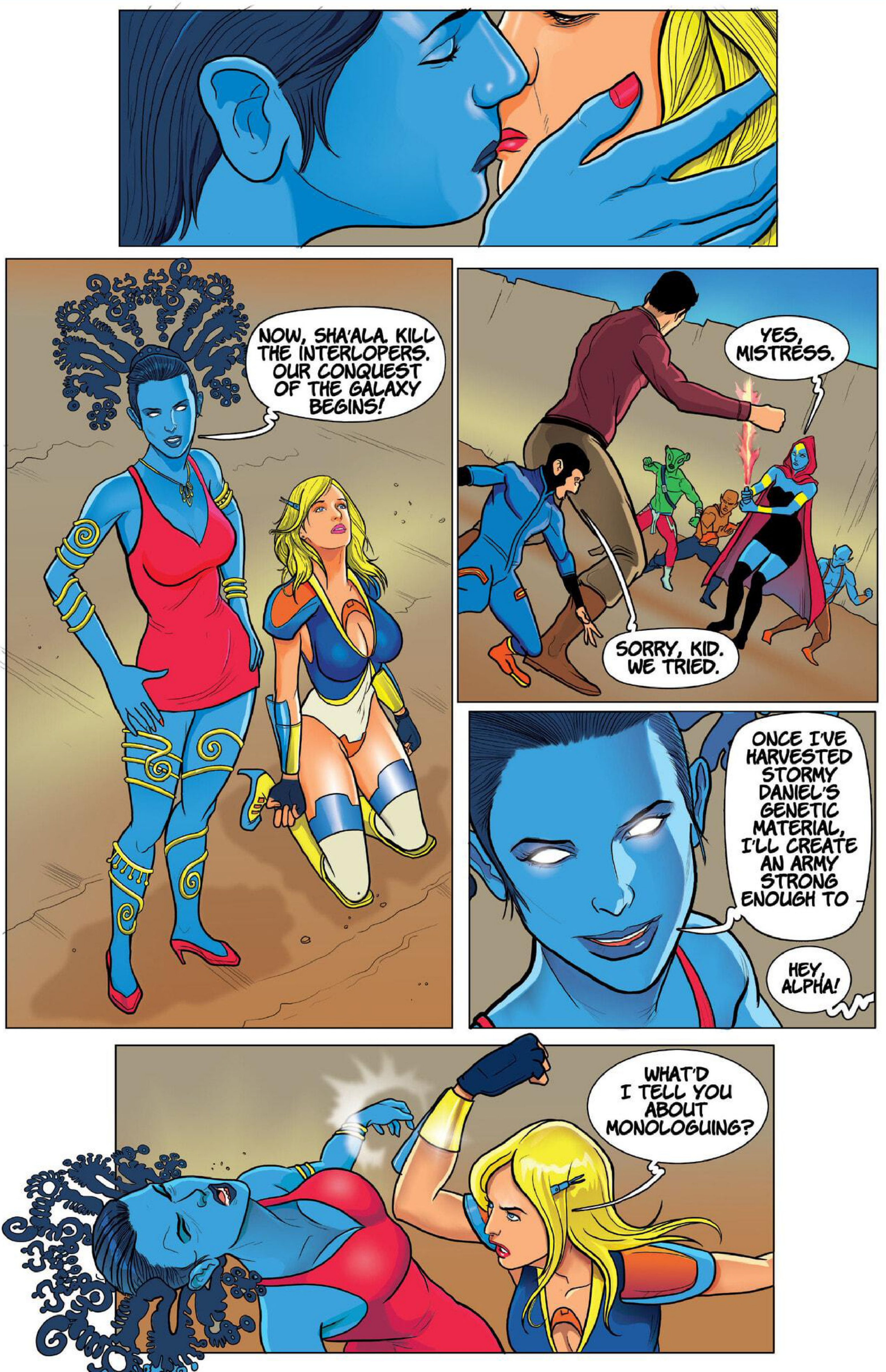

WELCOME TO YOUR DEATH....

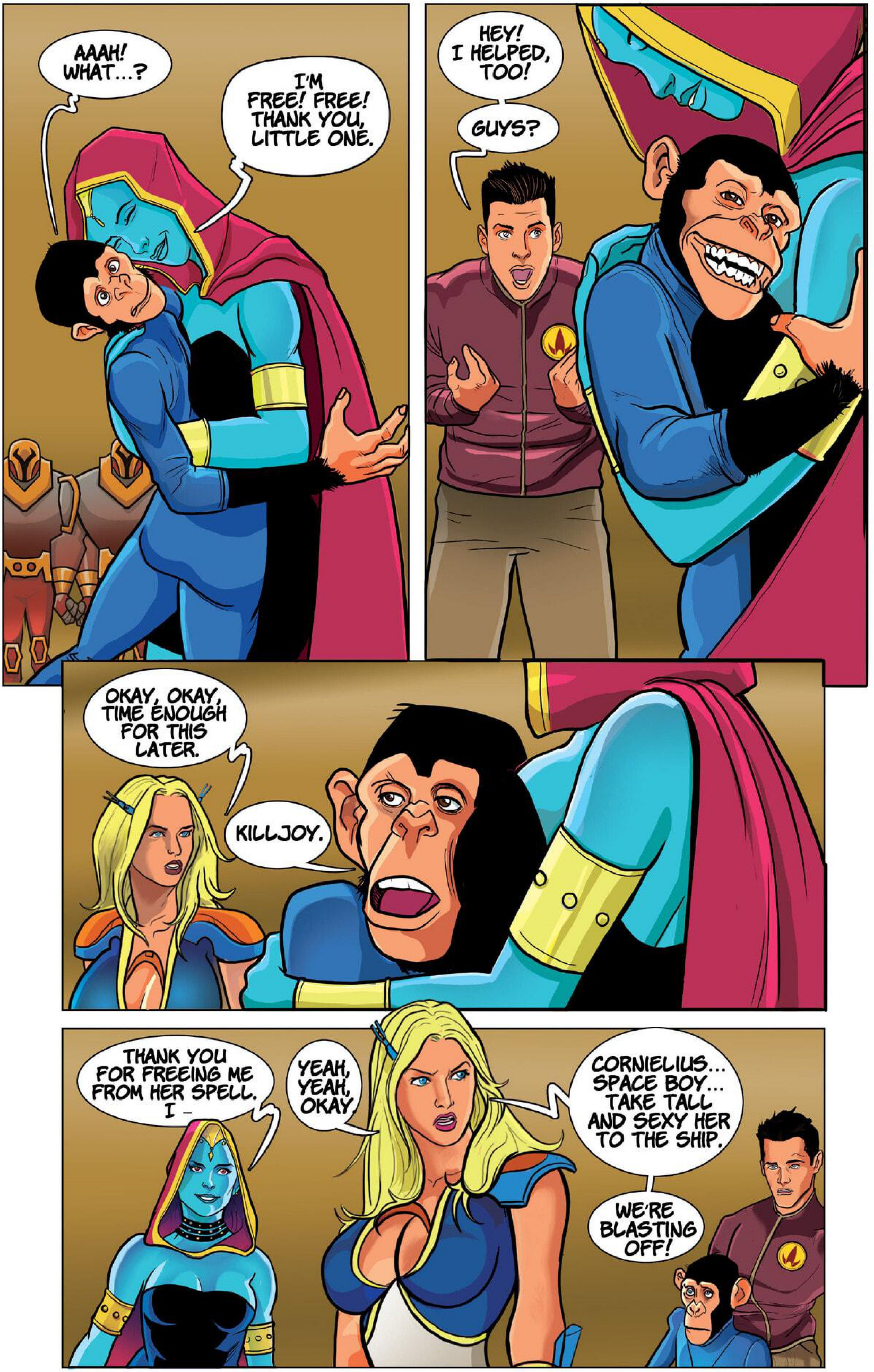


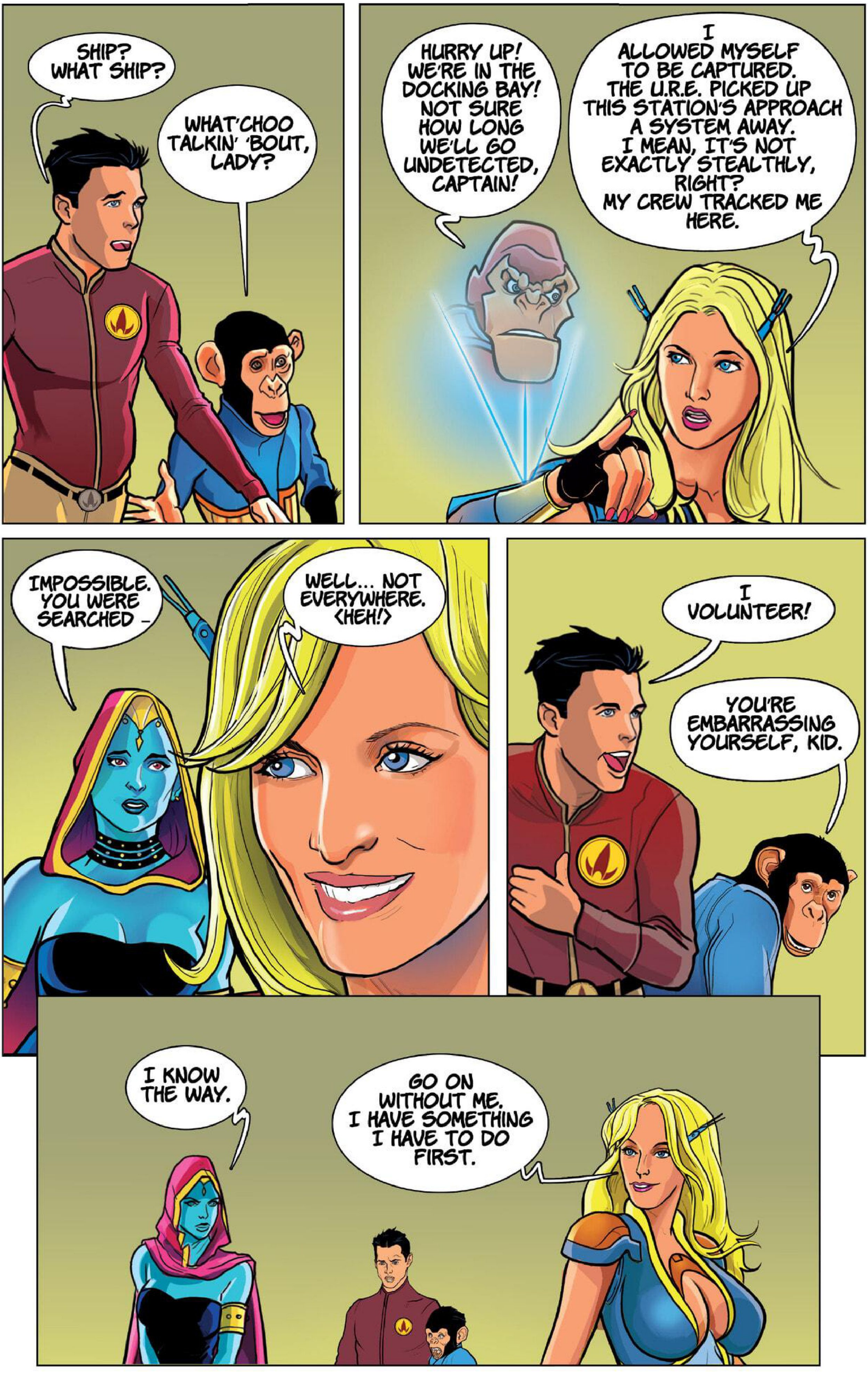

LITTLE HELP HERE!
STOP MEWLING.
SPRAKT!
IMPRESSIVE. ALPHA, ALLOW ME TO –
NO
OOO. A SUPERHERO POSE. YOU'RE IN TROUBLE NOW, TOOTS.
STOP YAMMERING.
I CHALLENGE YOU, EARTHER.
WOMAN TO WOMAN.

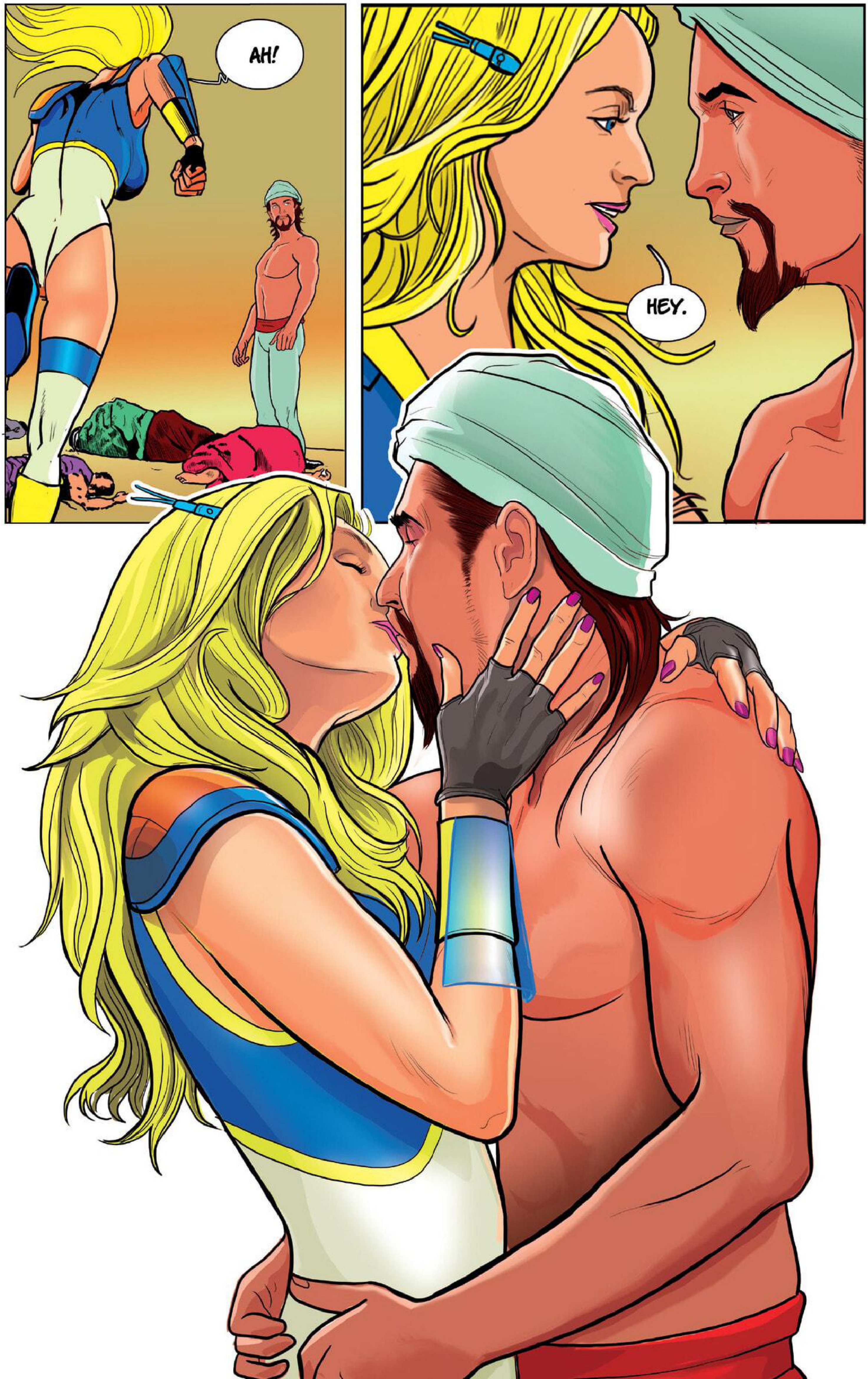

OH, SO YOU DON'T MIND GETTING YOUR HANDS DIRTY, HUH? I DUNNO. YOU LOOK MORE LIKE AN INDOOR GIRL TO ME.
AND YOU LOOK LIKE A SCARED CHILD.
I WAS TRAINED BY THE FINEST WARRIORS ON ORLANTIA TO SERVE THE LIDO.
<ULF!>
AND THEN, I KILLED HER.
OH, YEAH?
WHAT?
I WAS TAUGHT NOT TO TALK DURING A FIGHT.
<SPT!>
IMPRESSIVE. PERHAPS YOURS IS THE GENETIC MATERIAL I NEED TO CREATE THE MASTER RACE THAT -

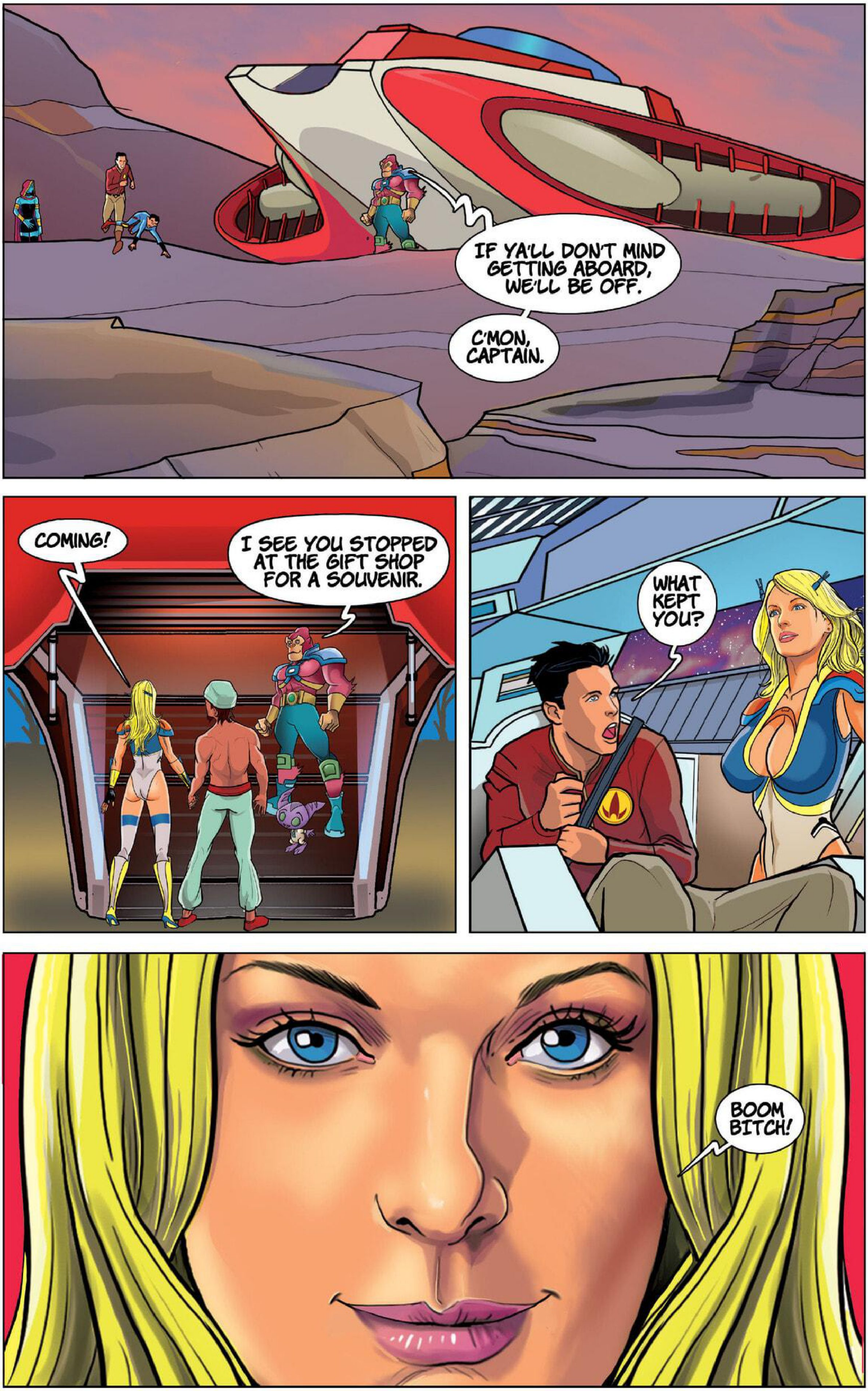

SEE? YOU'RE MONOLOGUING AGAIN AND –
WHAT?
NO, BLONDIE! DON'T GET TOO CLOSE!
...NO...
WHAT? WHAT'S HAPPENING?
ORLANTIANS HAVE GIFTS THAT ALLOW US TO CONTROL WEAK MINDS. YOU ARE NOW MINE, CAPTAIN DANIELS.

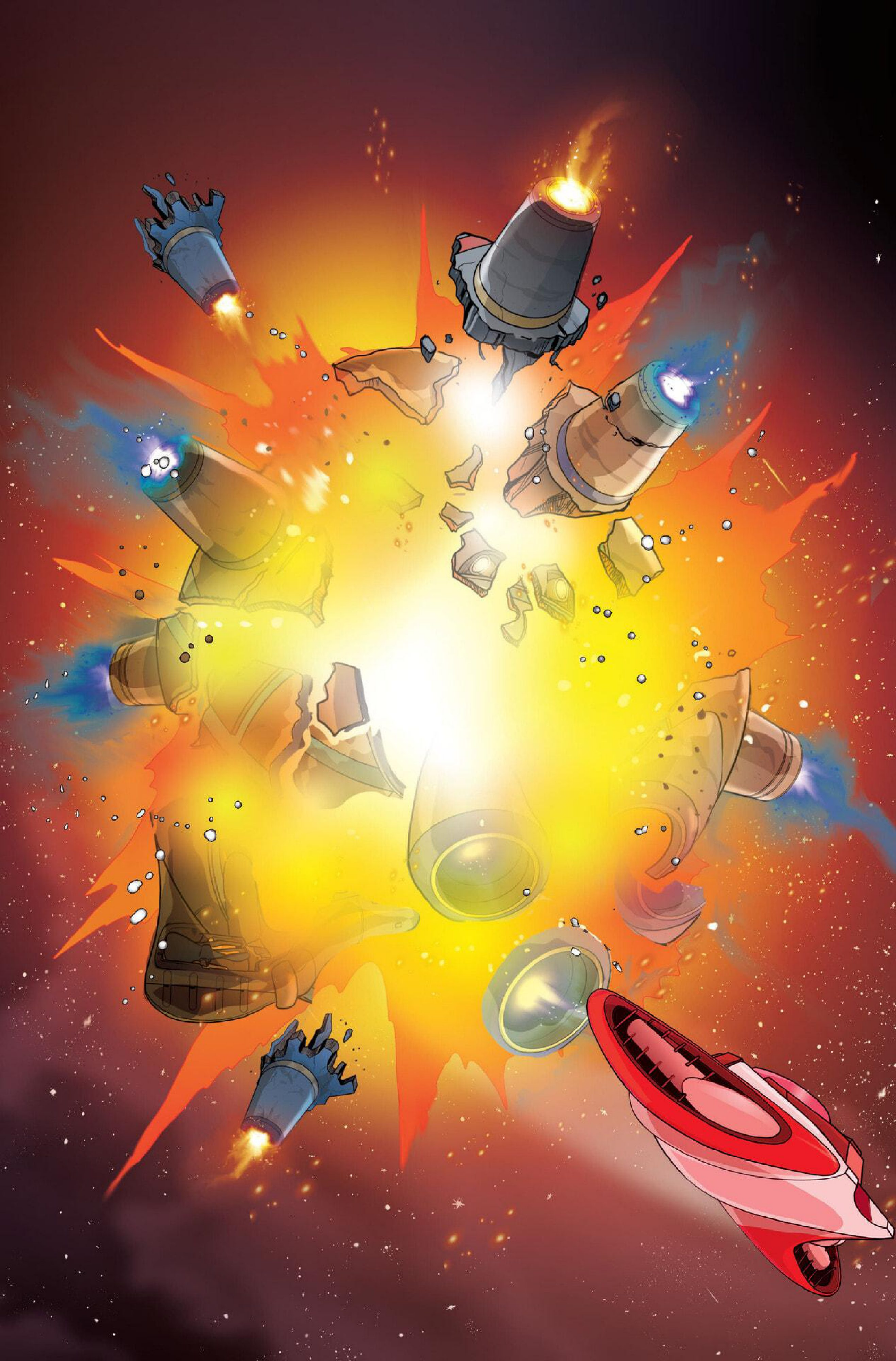

NOW, SHA'ALA. KILL THE INTERLOPERS. OUR CONQUEST OF THE GALAXY BEGINS!
YES, MISTRESS.
SORRY, KID. WE TRIED.
ONCE I'VE HARVESTED STORMY DANIEL'S GENETIC MATERIAL, I'LL CREATE AN ARMY STRONG ENOUGH TO –
HEY, ALPHA!
WHAT'D I TELL YOU ABOUT MONOLOGUING?

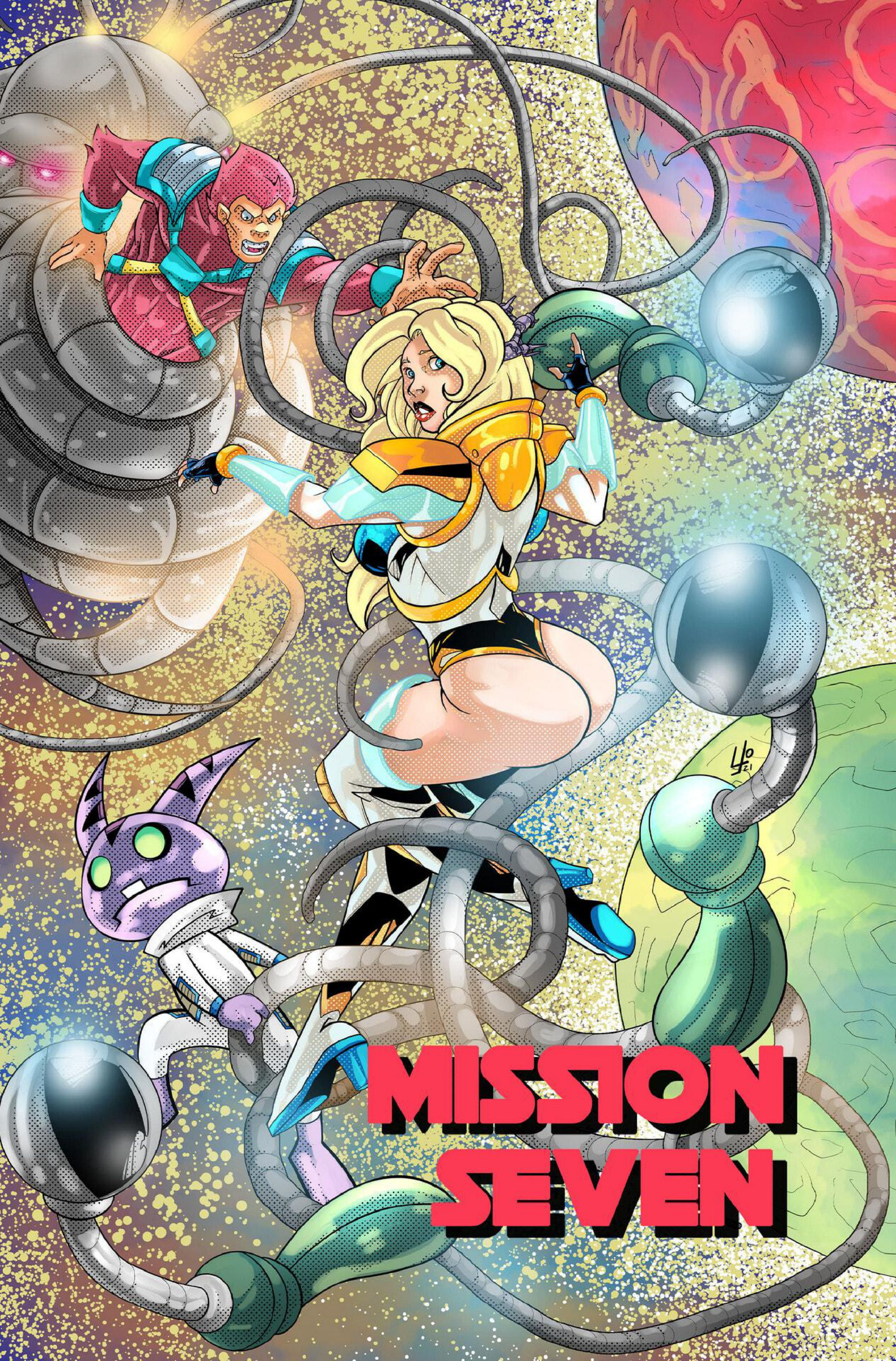

AAAH! WHAT...?
I'M FREE! FREE! THANK YOU, LITTLE ONE.
HEY! I HELPED, TOO!
GUYS?
OKAY, OKAY, TIME ENOUGH FOR THIS LATER.
KILLJOY.
THANK YOU FOR FREEING ME FROM HER SPELL. I –
YEAH, YEAH, OKAY.
CORNIELIUS... SPACE BOY... TAKE TALL AND SEXY HER TO THE SHIP.
WE'RE BLASTING OFF!

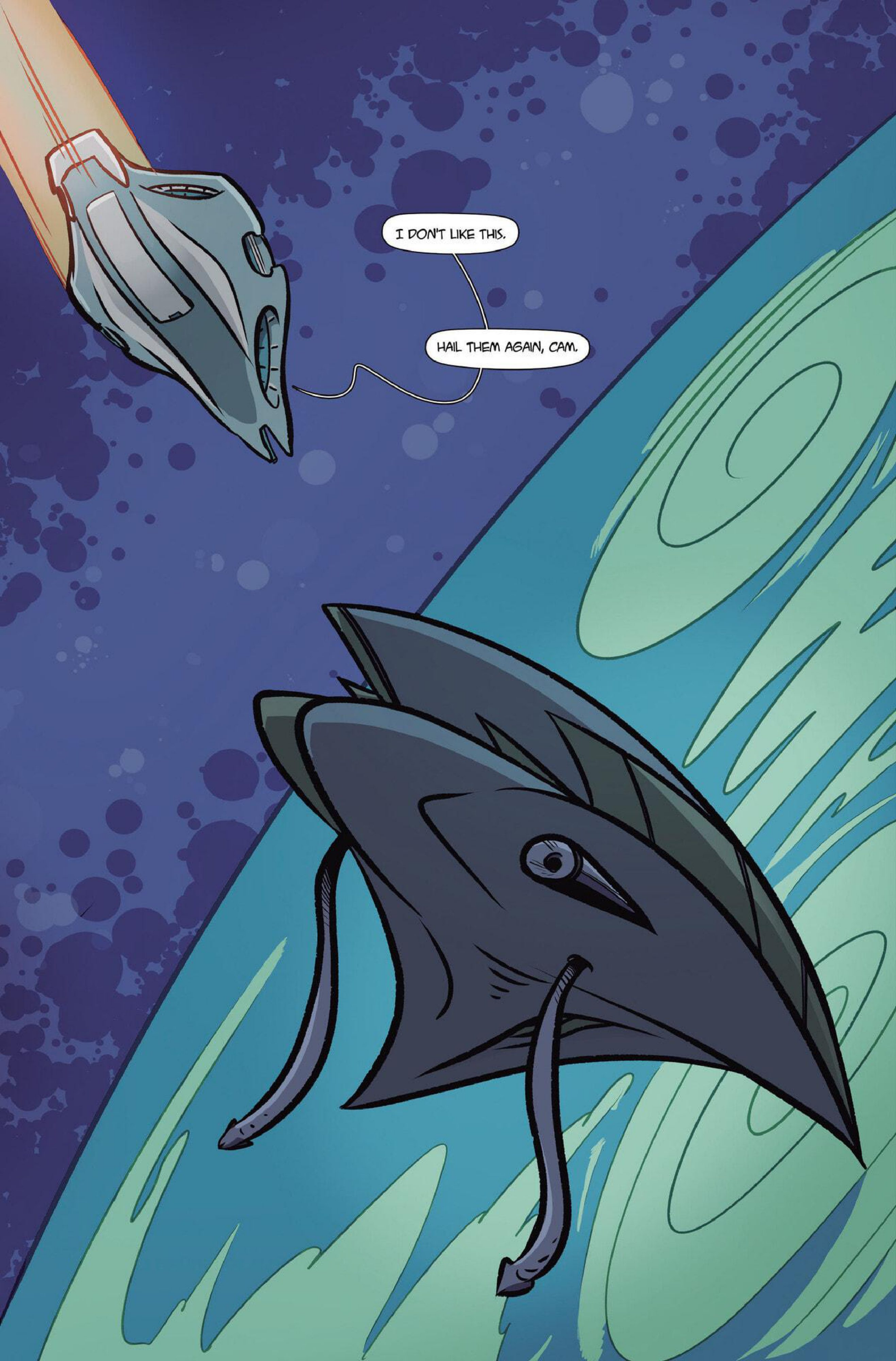

SHIP? WHAT SHIP?
WHAT'CHOO TALKIN' 'BOUT, LADY?
HURRY UP! WE'RE IN THE DOCKING BAY! NOT SURE HOW LONG WE'LL GO UNDETECTED, CAPTAIN!
I ALLOWED MYSELF TO BE CAPTURED. THE U.R.E. PICKED UP THIS STATION'S APPROACH A SYSTEM AWAY. I MEAN, IT'S NOT EXACTLY STEALTHLY, RIGHT? MY CREW TRACKED ME HERE.
IMPOSSIBLE. YOU WERE SEARCHED –
WELL... NOT EVERYWHERE. <HEH!>
I VOLUNTEER!
YOU'RE EMBARRASSING YOURSELF, KID.
I KNOW THE WAY.
GO ON WITHOUT ME. I HAVE SOMETHING I HAVE TO DO FIRST.

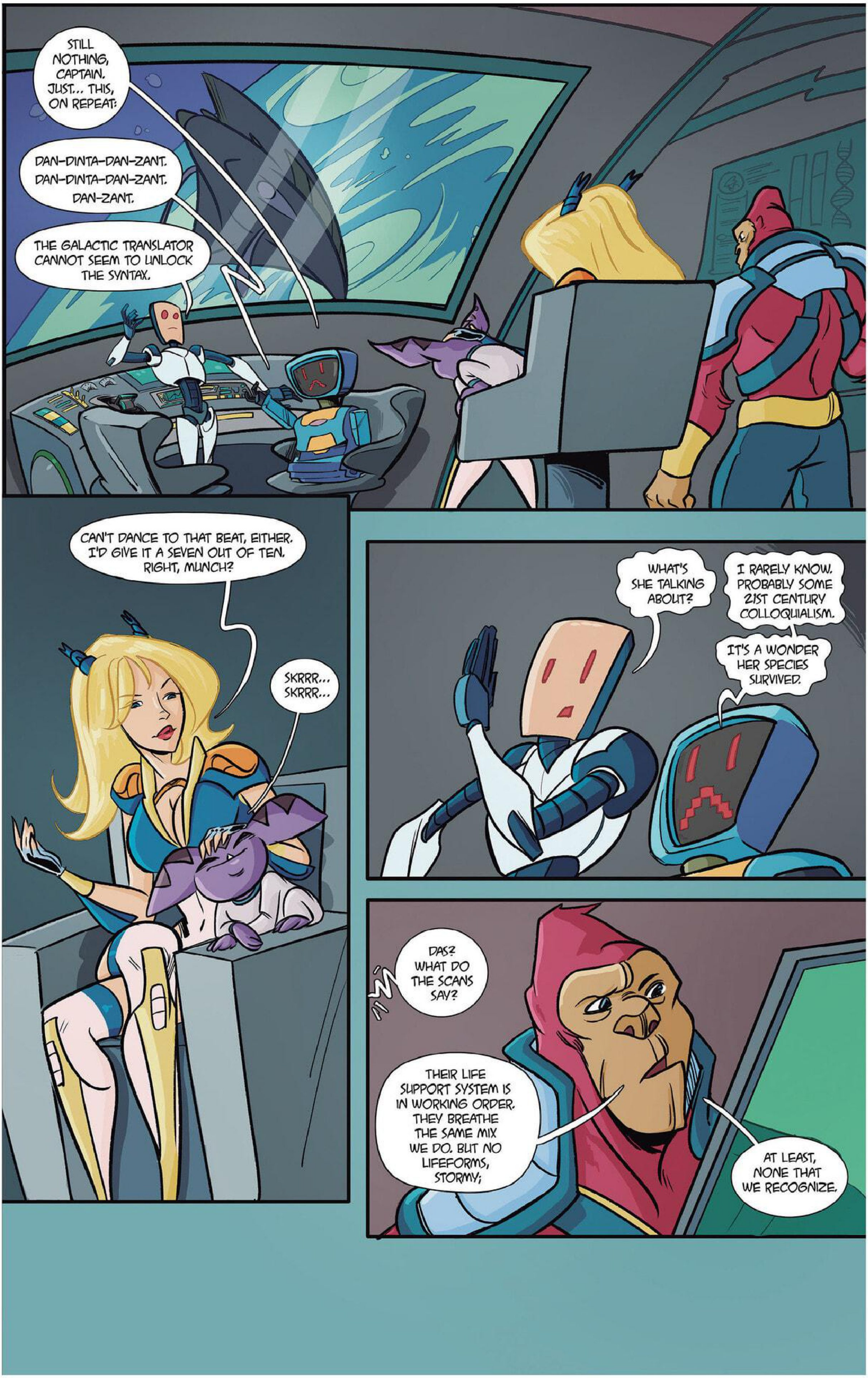

AH!
HEY.

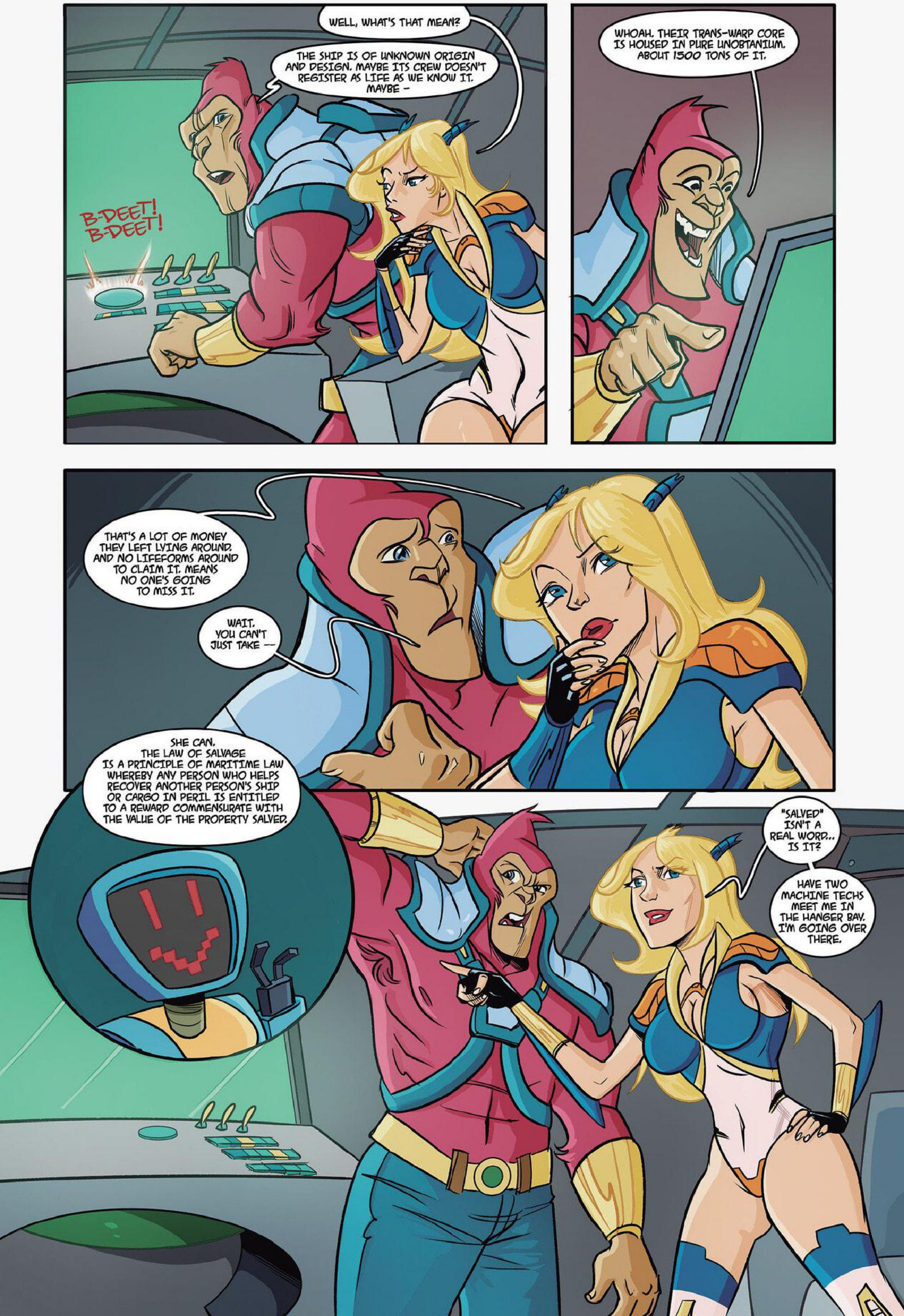

IF YA'LL DON'T MIND GETTING ABOARD, WE'LL BE OFF.
C'MON, CAPTAIN.
COMING!
I SEE YOU STOPPED AT THE GIFT SHOP FOR A SOUVENIR.
WHAT KEPT YOU?
BOOM BITCH!

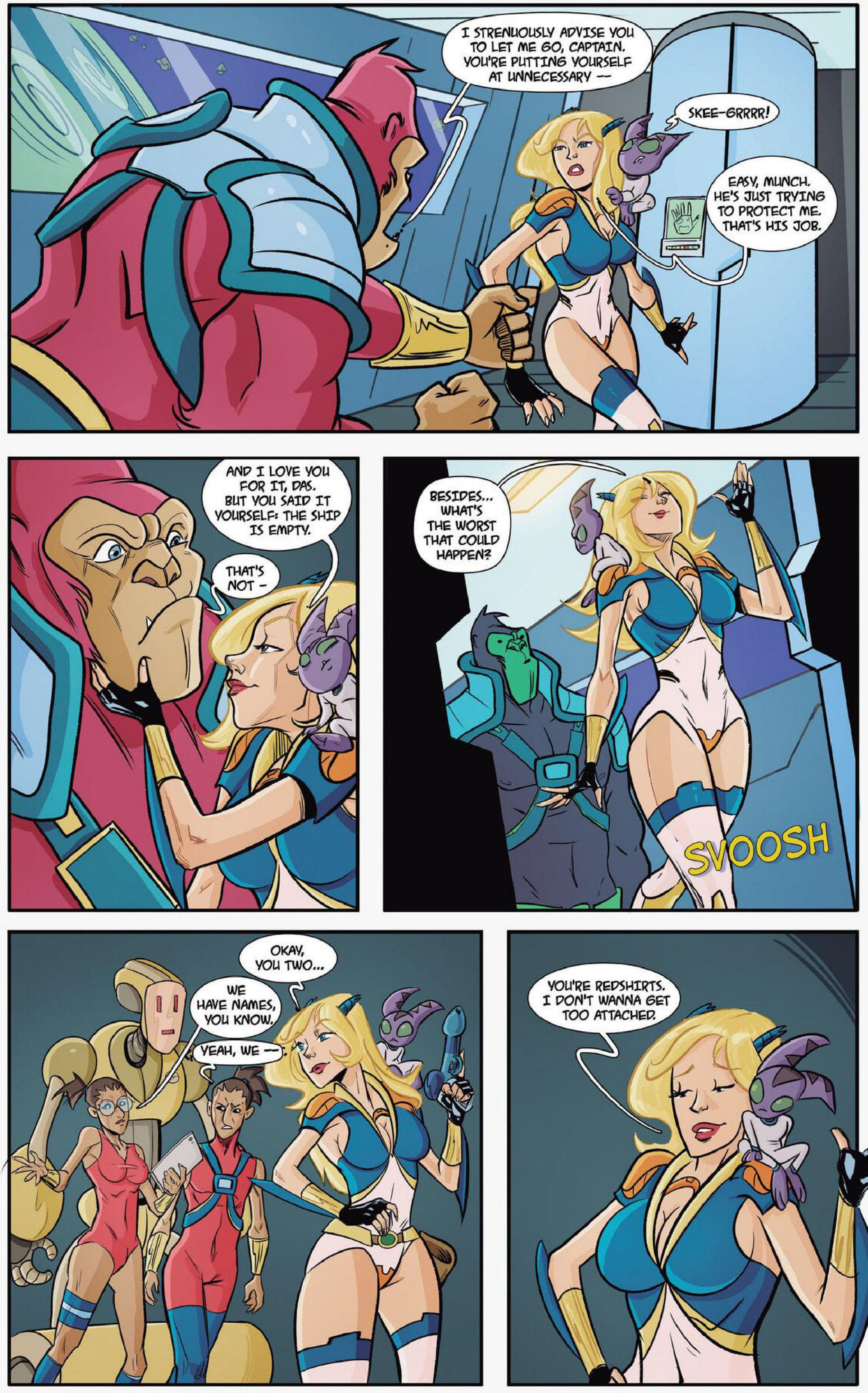


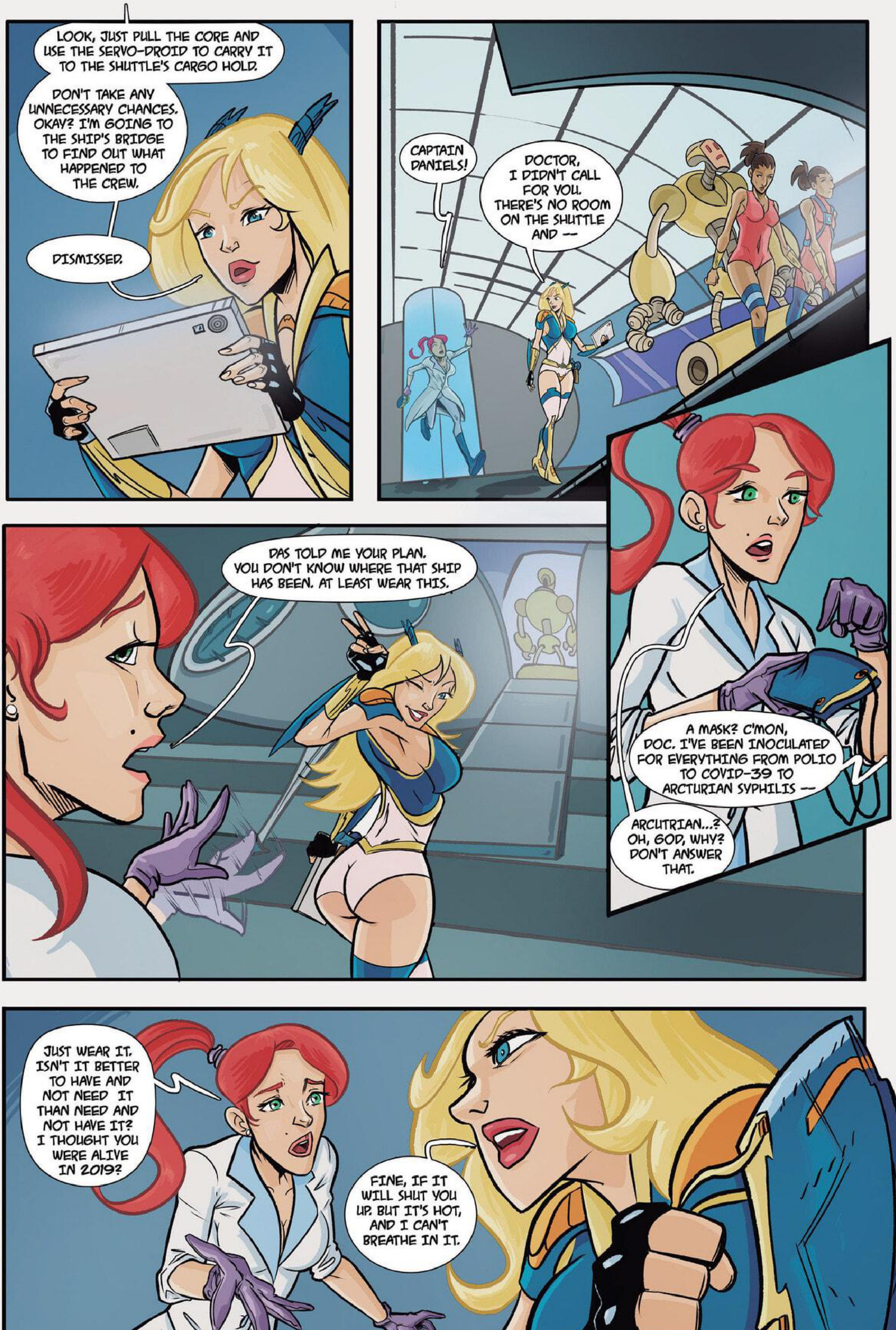

MISSION
SEVEN

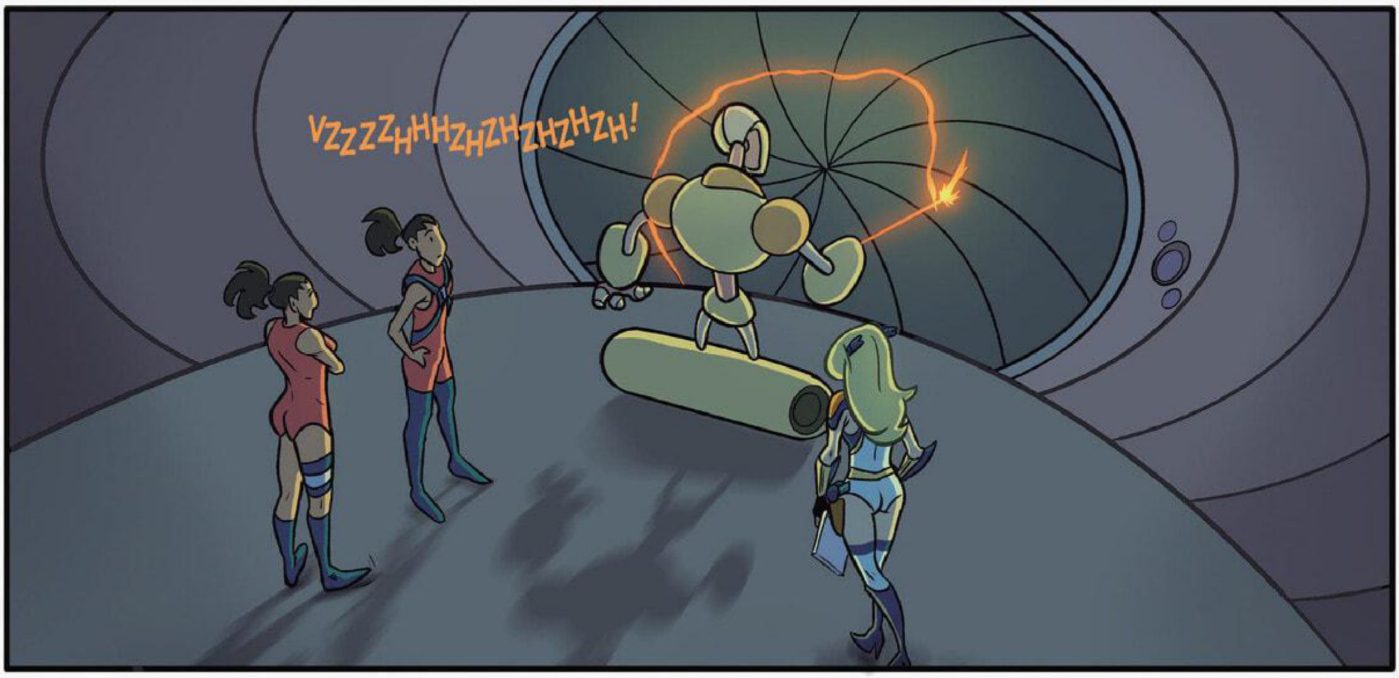

I DON'T LIKE THIS.
HAIL THEM AGAIN, CAM.

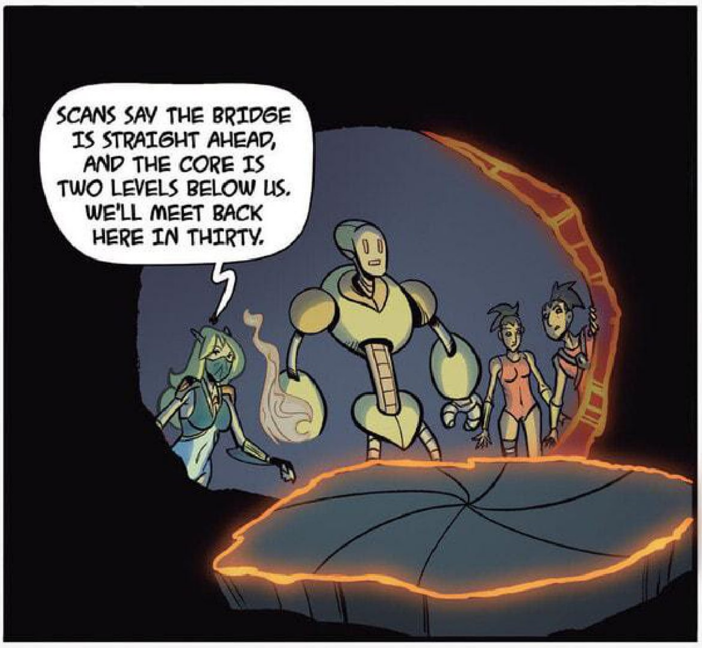

STILL NOTHING, CAPTAIN. JUST... THIS, ON REPEAT:
DAN-DINTA-DAN-ZANT. DAN-DINTA-DAN-ZANT. DAN-ZANT.
THE GALACTIC TRANSLATOR CANNOT SEEM TO UNLOCK THE SYNTAX.
CAN'T DANCE TO THAT BEAT, EITHER. I'D GIVE IT A SEVEN OUT OF TEN. RIGHT, MUNCH?
SKRRR... SKRRR...
WHAT'S SHE TALKING ABOUT?
I RARELY KNOW. PROBABLY SOME 21ST CENTURY COLLOQUIALISM.
IT'S A WONDER HER SPECIES SURVIVED.
DAS? WHAT DO THE SCANS SAY?
THEIR LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM IS IN WORKING ORDER. THEY BREATHE THE SAME MIX WE DO. BUT NO LIFEFORMS, STORMY;
AT LEAST, NONE THAT WE RECOGNIZE.

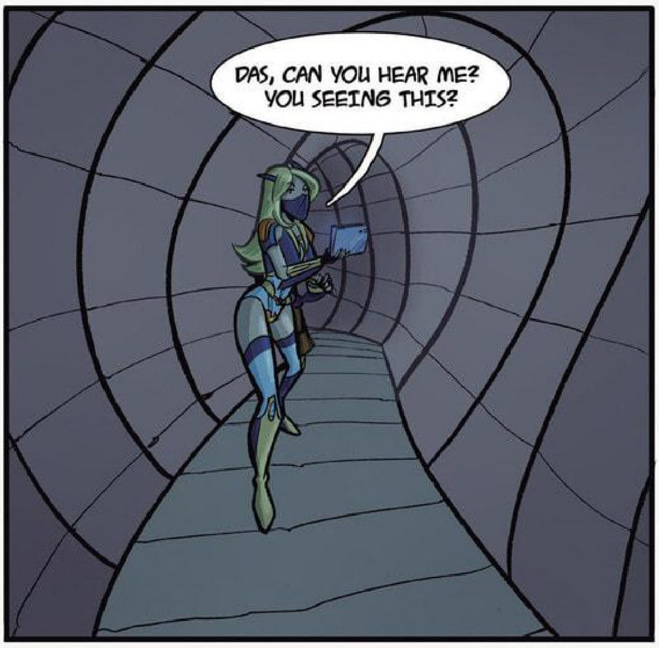

WELL, WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
THE SHIP IS OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN AND DESIGN. MAYBE ITS CREW DOESN'T REGISTER AS LIFE AS WE KNOW IT. MAYBE –
B-DEET! B-DEET!
WHOAH. THEIR TRANS-WARP CORE IS HOUSED IN PURE UNOBTANIUM. ABOUT 1500 TONS OF IT.
THAT'S A LOT OF MONEY THEY LEFT LYING AROUND. AND NO LIFEFORMS AROUND TO CLAIM IT. MEANS NO ONE'S GOING TO MISS IT.
WAIT. YOU CAN'T JUST TAKE --
SHE CAN. THE LAW OF SALVAGE IS A PRINCIPLE OF MARITIME LAW WHEREBY ANY PERSON WHO HELPS RECOVER ANOTHER PERSON'S SHIP OR CARGO IN PERIL IS ENTITLED TO A REWARD COMMENSURATE WITH THE VALUE OF THE PROPERTY SALVED.
"SALVED" ISN'T A REAL WORD... IS IT?
HAVE TWO MACHINE TECHS MEET ME IN THE HANGER BAY. I'M GOING OVER THERE.

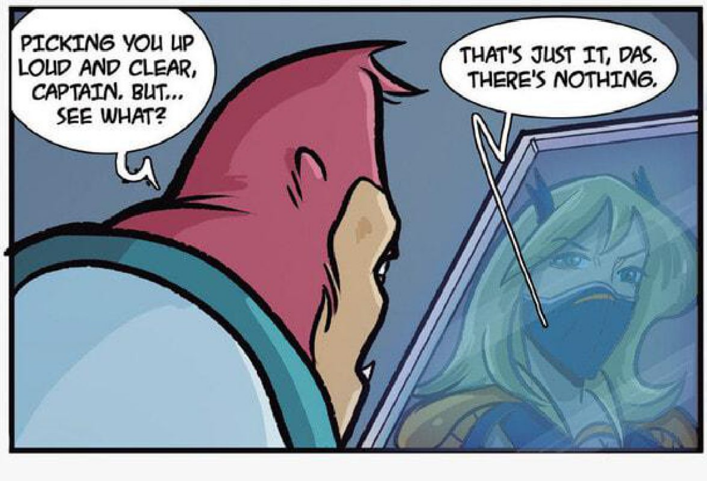

I STRENUOUSLY ADVISE YOU TO LET ME GO, CAPTAIN. YOU'RE PUTTING YOURSELF AT UNNECESSARY ––
SKEE–GRRRR!
EASY, MUNCH. HE'S JUST TRYING TO PROTECT ME. THAT'S HIS JOB.
AND I LOVE YOU FOR IT, DAS. BUT YOU SAID IT YOURSELF: THE SHIP IS EMPTY.
THAT'S NOT –
BESIDES... WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
SVOOSH
OKAY, YOU TWO...
WE HAVE NAMES, YOU KNOW.
YEAH, WE ––
YOU'RE REDSHIRTS. I DON'T WANNA GET TOO ATTACHED.

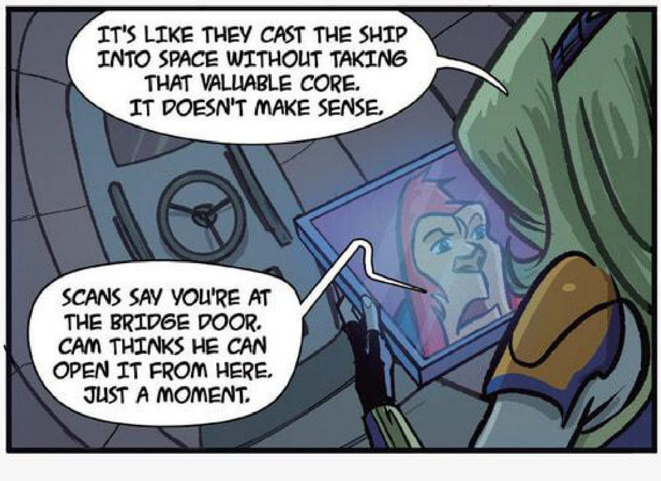

LOOK, JUST PULL THE CORE AND USE THE SERVO-DROID TO CARRY IT TO THE SHUTTLE'S CARGO HOLD.
DON'T TAKE ANY UNNECESSARY CHANCES. OKAY? I'M GOING TO THE SHIP'S BRIDGE TO FIND OUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CREW.
DISMISSED.
CAPTAIN DANIELS!
DOCTOR, I DIDN'T CALL FOR YOU. THERE'S NO ROOM ON THE SHUTTLE AND --
DAS TOLD ME YOUR PLAN. YOU DON'T KNOW WHERE THAT SHIP HAS BEEN. AT LEAST WEAR THIS.
A MASK? C'MON, DOC. I'VE BEEN INOCULATED FOR EVERYTHING FROM POLIO TO COVID-39 TO ARCTURIAN SYPHILIS --
ARCUTRIAN...? OH, GOD, WHY? DON'T ANSWER THAT.
JUST WEAR IT. ISN'T IT BETTER TO HAVE AND NOT NEED IT THAN NEED AND NOT HAVE IT? I THOUGHT YOU WERE ALIVE IN 2019?
FINE, IF IT WILL SHUT YOU UP. BUT IT'S HOT, AND I CAN'T BREATHE IN IT.

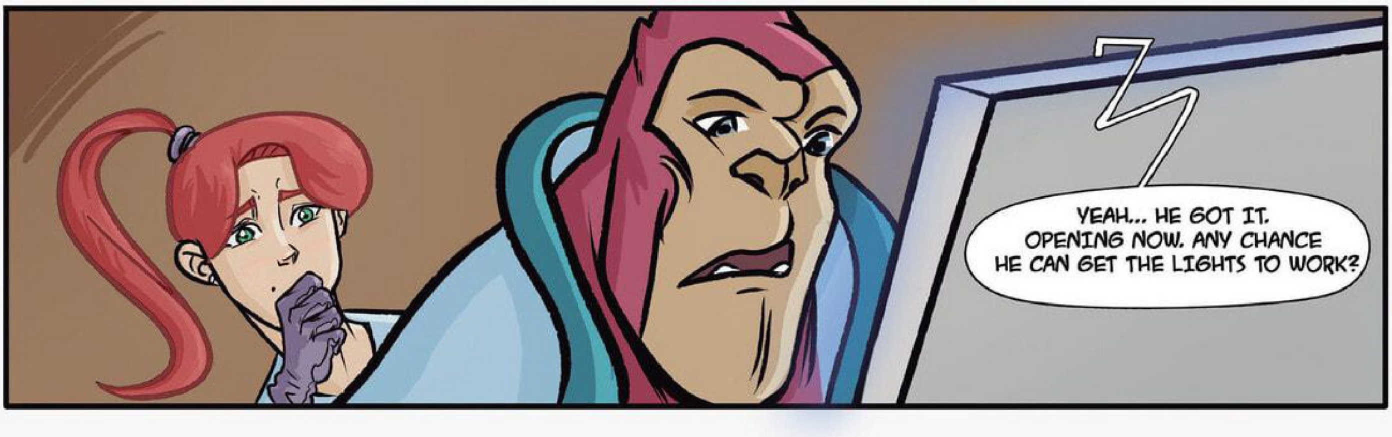

VZZZZHHHZHZHZHZHZH!

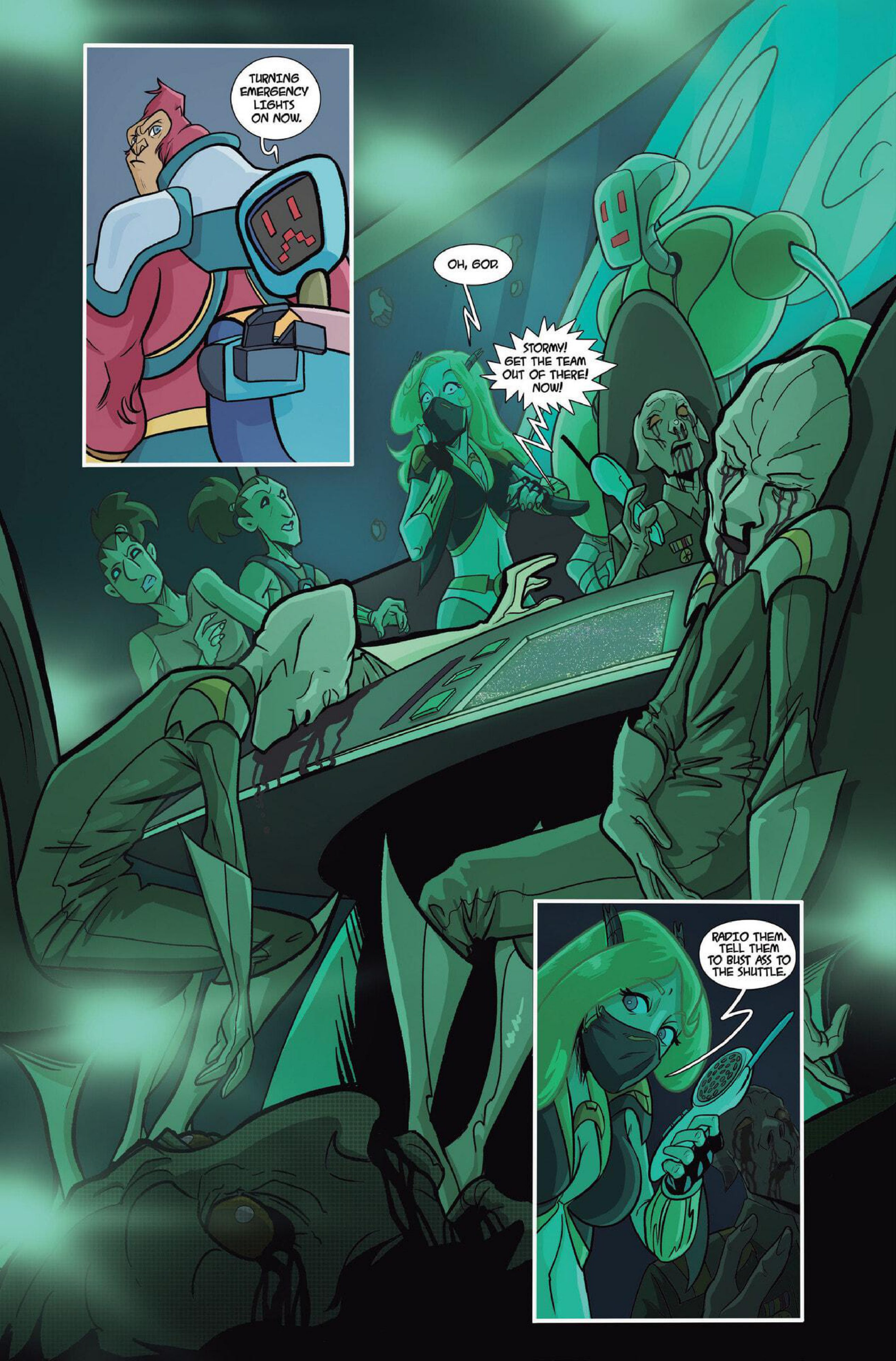

SCANS SAY THE BRIDGE IS STRAIGHT AHEAD, AND THE CORE IS TWO LEVELS BELOW US. WE'LL MEET BACK HERE IN THIRTY.

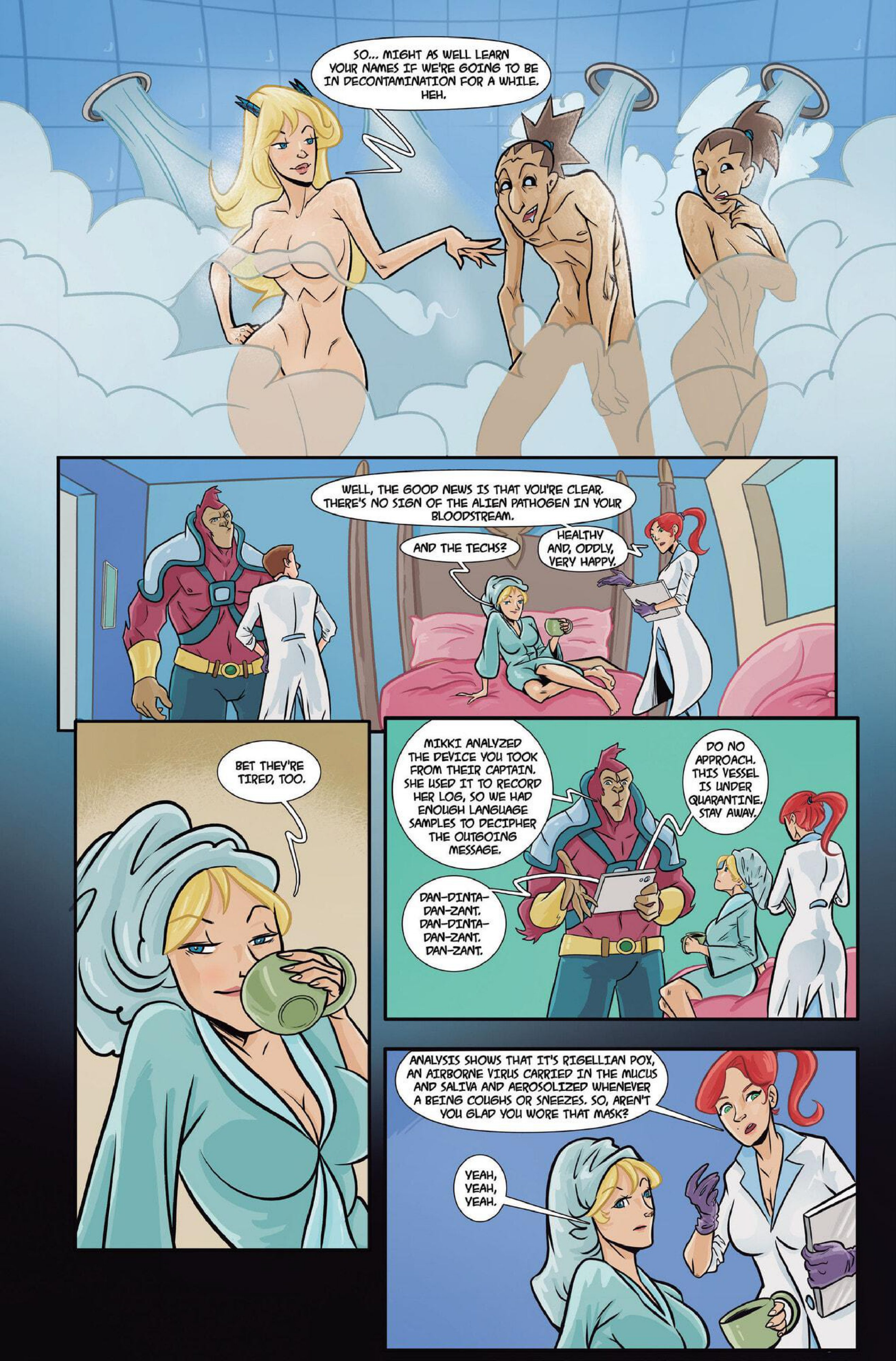

DAS, CAN YOU HEAR ME? YOU SEEING THIS?

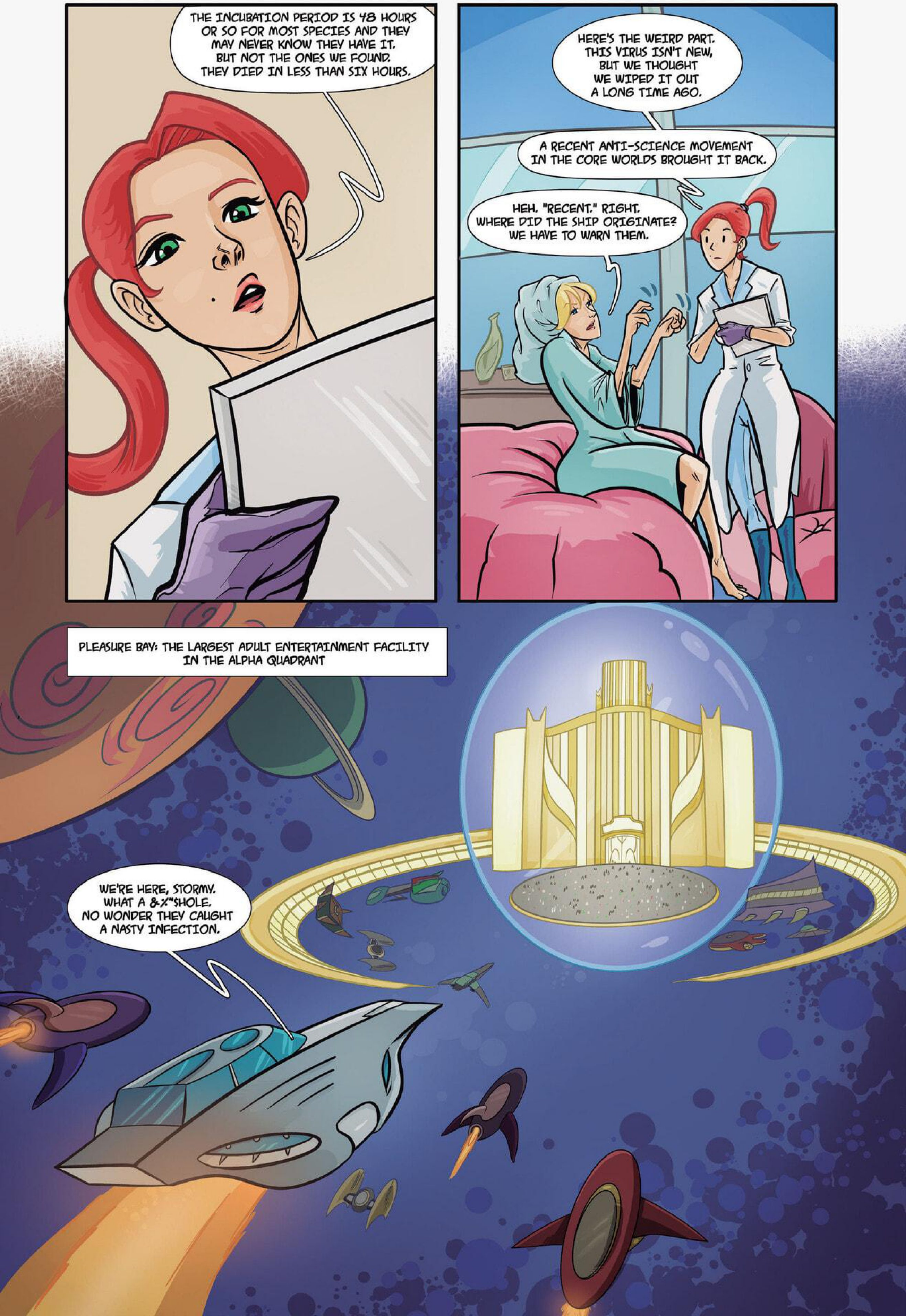

PICKING YOU UP LOUD AND CLEAR, CAPTAIN. BUT... SEE WHAT?
THAT'S JUST IT, DAS. THERE'S NOTHING.

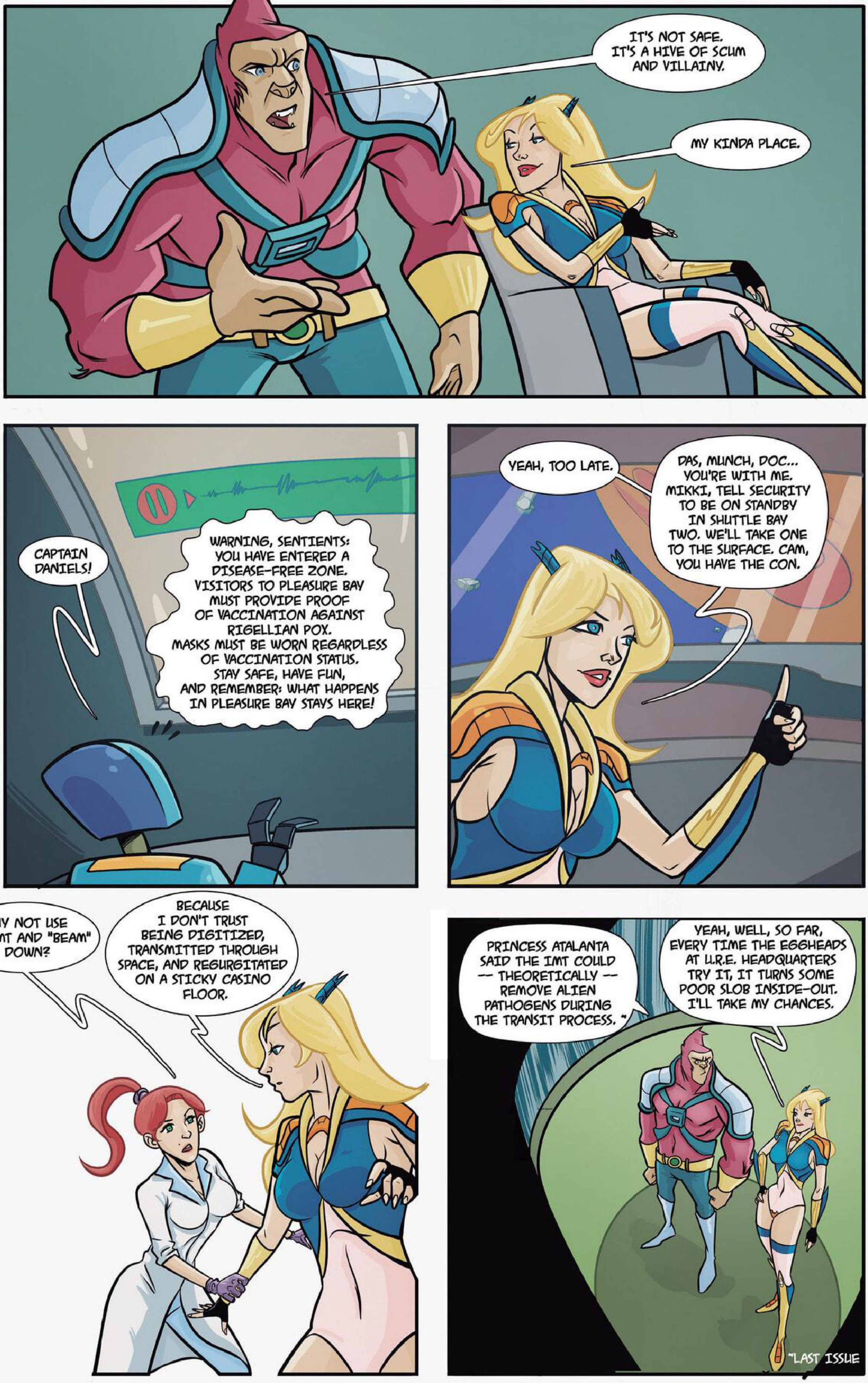

IT'S LIKE THEY CAST THE SHIP INTO SPACE WITHOUT TAKING THAT VALUABLE CORE. IT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE.
SCANS SAY YOU'RE AT THE BRIDGE DOOR. CAM THINKS HE CAN OPEN IT FROM HERE. JUST A MOMENT.

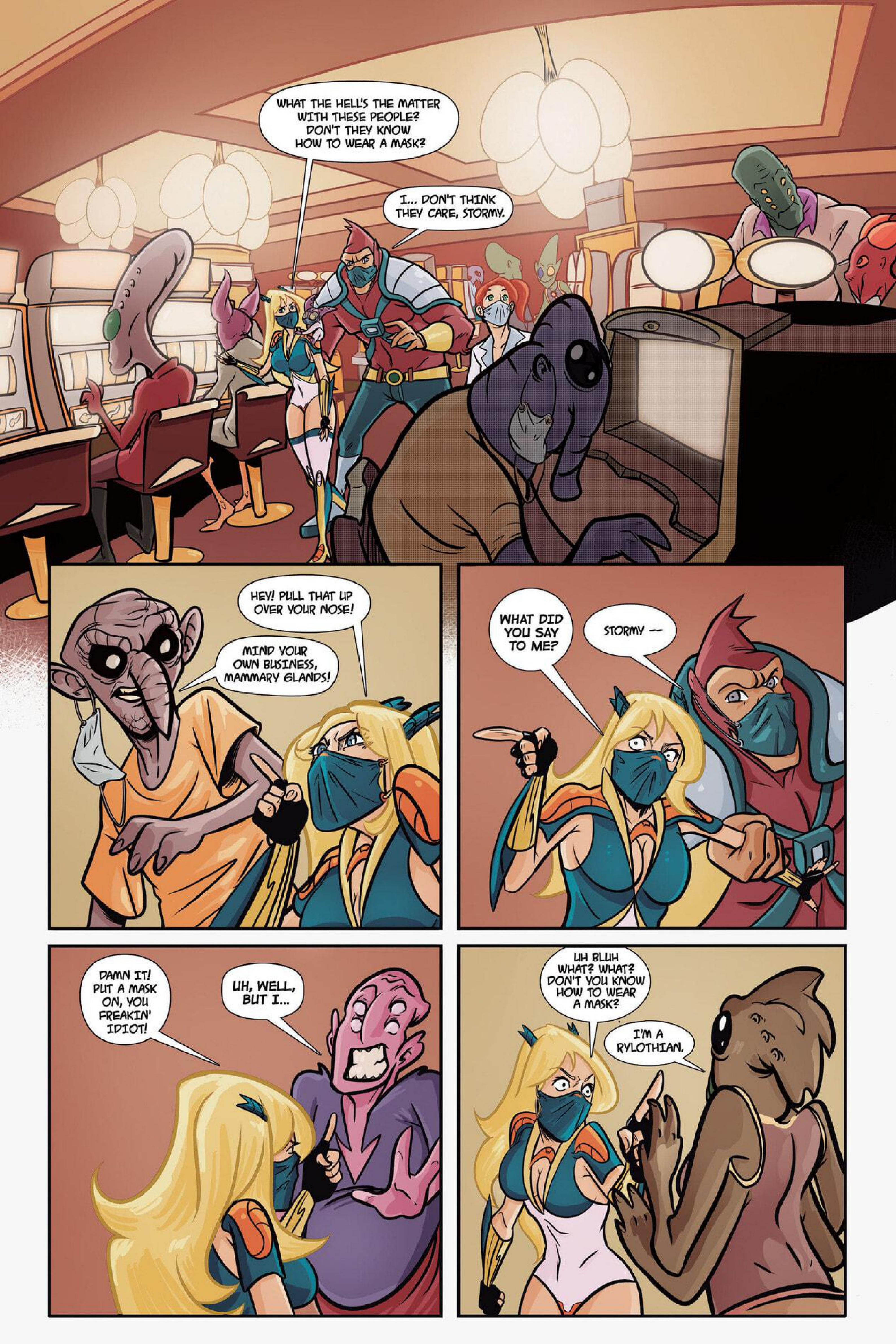

YEAH... HE GOT IT. OPENING NOW. ANY CHANCE HE CAN GET THE LIGHTS TO WORK?

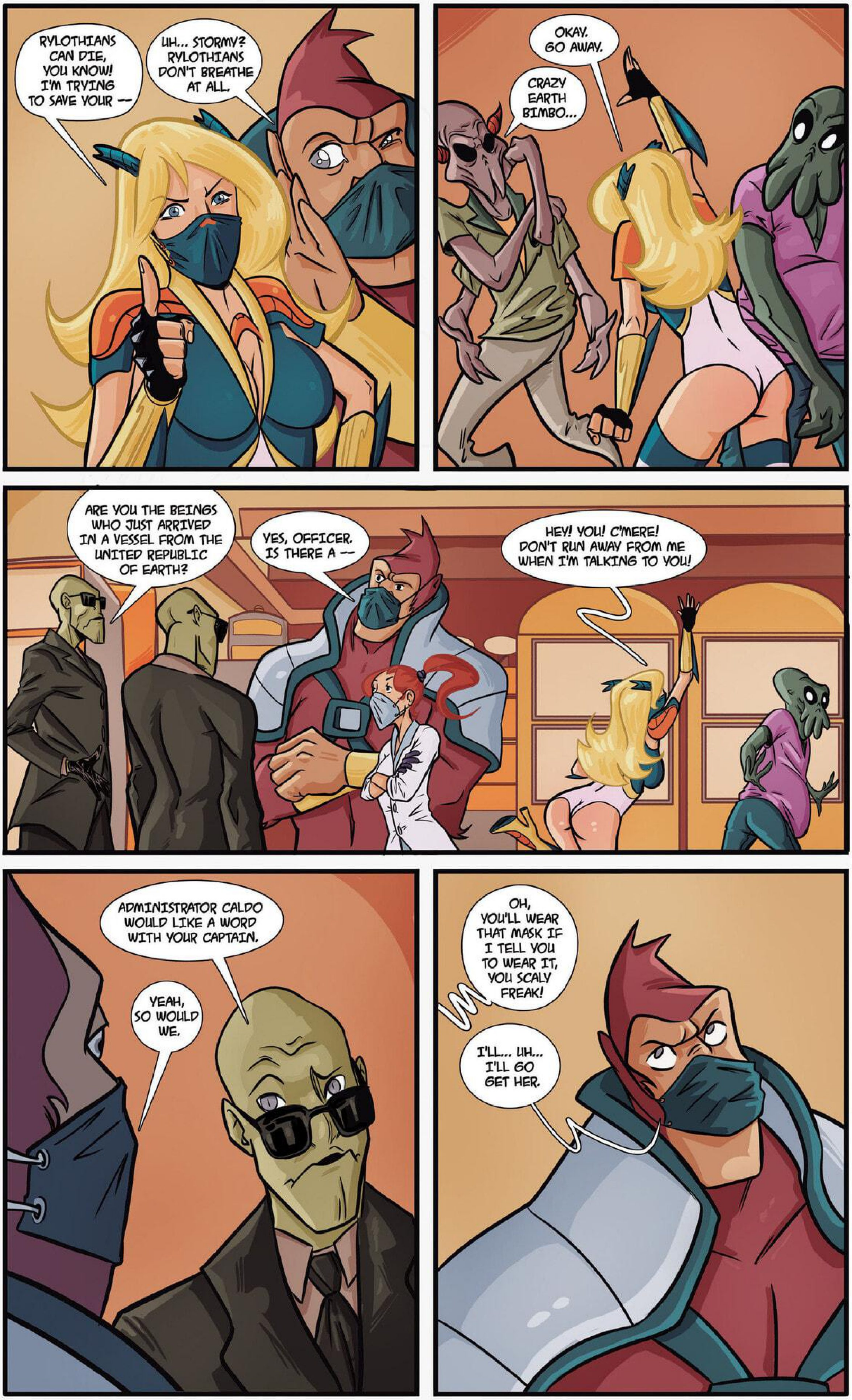

TURNING EMERGENCY LIGHTS ON NOW.
OH, GOD.
STORMY! GET THE TEAM OUT OF THERE! NOW!
RADIO THEM. TELL THEM TO BUST ASS TO THE SHUTTLE.

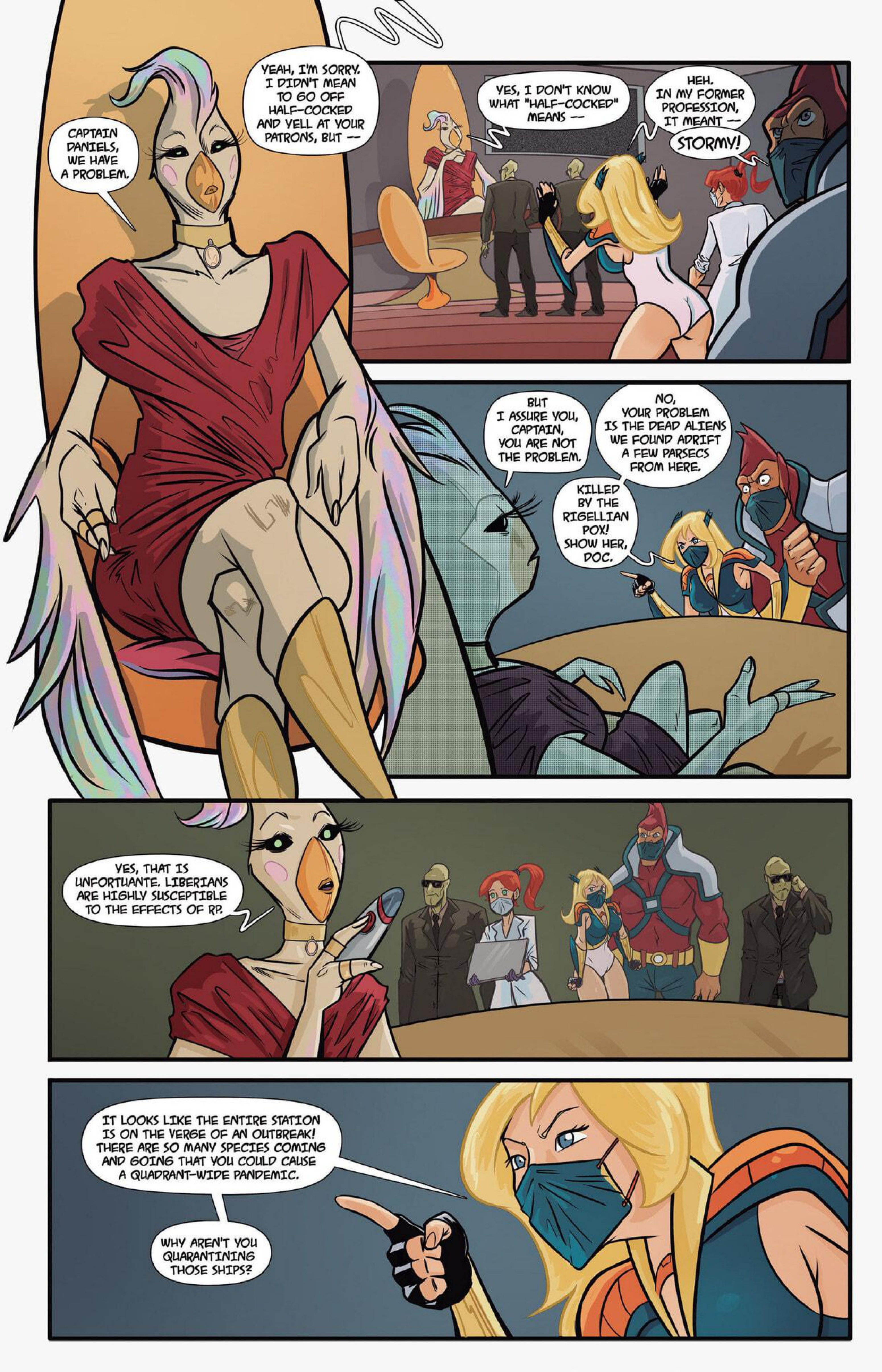

SO... MIGHT AS WELL LEARN YOUR NAMES IF WE'RE GOING TO BE IN DECONTAMINATION FOR A WHILE. HEH.
WELL, THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT YOU'RE CLEAR. THERE'S NO SIGN OF THE ALIEN PATHOGEN IN YOUR BLOODSTREAM.
AND THE TECHS?
HEALTHY AND, ODDLY, VERY HAPPY.
BET THEY'RE TIRED, TOO.
MIKKI ANALYZED THE DEVICE YOU TOOK FROM THEIR CAPTAIN. SHE USED IT TO RECORD HER LOG, SO WE HAD ENOUGH LANGUAGE SAMPLES TO DECIPHER THE OUTGOING MESSAGE.
DAN-DINTA-DAN-ZANT. DAN-DINTA-DAN-ZANT. DAN-ZANT.
DO NO APPROACH. THIS VESSEL IS UNDER QUARANTINE. STAY AWAY.
ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT IT'S RIGELLIAN POX, AN AIRBORNE VIRUS CARRIED IN THE MUCUS AND SALIVA AND AEROSOLIZED WHENEVER A BEING COUGHS OR SNEEZES. SO, AREN'T YOU GLAD YOU WORE THAT MASK?
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH.

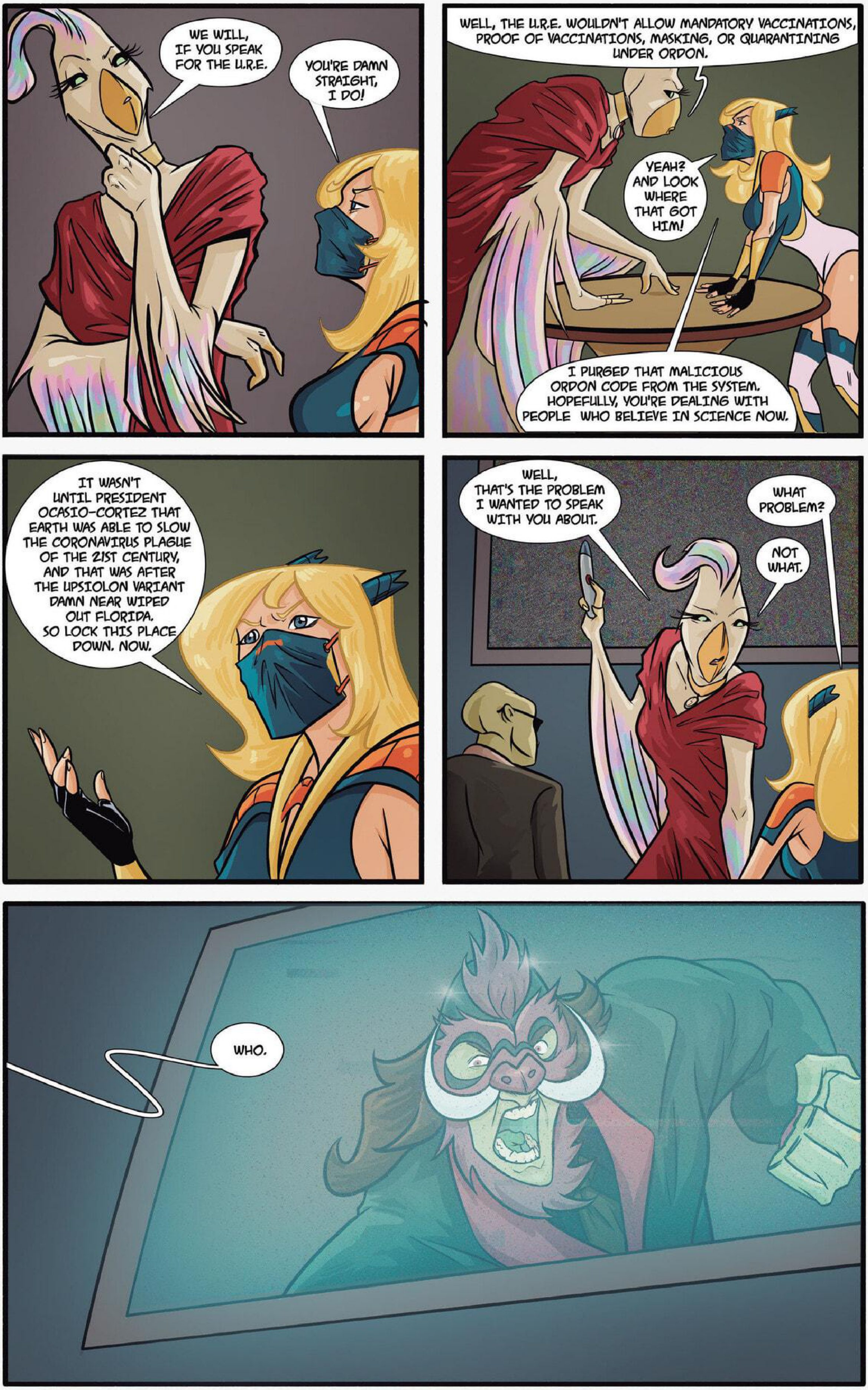

THE INCUBATION PERIOD IS 48 HOURS OR SO FOR MOST SPECIES AND THEY MAY NEVER KNOW THEY HAVE IT. BUT NOT THE ONES WE FOUND. THEY DIED IN LESS THAN SIX HOURS.
HERE'S THE WEIRD PART. THIS VIRUS ISN'T NEW, BUT WE THOUGHT WE WIPED IT OUT A LONG TIME AGO.
A RECENT ANTI-SCIENCE MOVEMENT IN THE CORE WORLDS BROUGHT IT BACK.
HEH. "RECENT." RIGHT. WHERE DID THE SHIP ORIGINATE? WE HAVE TO WARN THEM.
PLEASURE BAY: THE LARGEST ADULT ENTERTAINMENT FACILITY IN THE ALPHA QUADRANT
WE'RE HERE, STORMY. WHAT A &%"$HOLE. NO WONDER THEY CAUGHT A NASTY INFECTION.

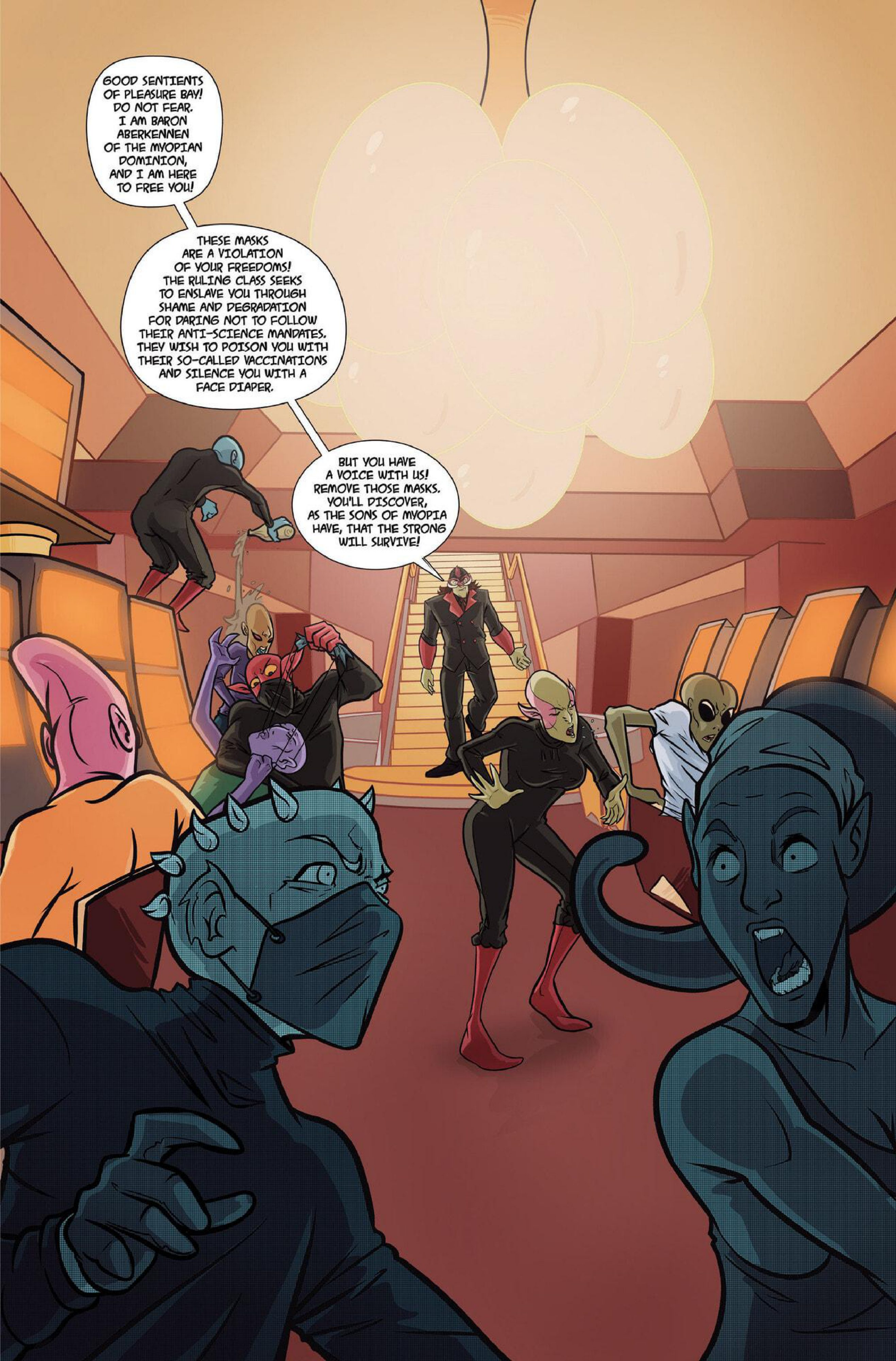

IT'S NOT SAFE. IT'S A HIVE OF SCUM AND VILLAINY.
MY KINDA PLACE.
CAPTAIN DANIELS!
WARNING, SENTIENTS: YOU HAVE ENTERED A DISEASE-FREE ZONE. VISITORS TO PLEASURE BAY MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF VACCINATION AGAINST RIGELLIAN POX. MASKS MUST BE WORN REGARDLESS OF VACCINATION STATUS. STAY SAFE, HAVE FUN, AND REMEMBER: WHAT HAPPENS IN PLEASURE BAY STAYS HERE!
YEAH, TOO LATE.
DAS, MUNCH, DOC... YOU'RE WITH ME. MIKKI, TELL SECURITY TO BE ON STANDBY IN SHUTTLE BAY TWO. WE'LL TAKE ONE TO THE SURFACE. CAM, YOU HAVE THE CON.
WHY NOT USE THE IMT AND "BEAM" DOWN?
BECAUSE I DON'T TRUST BEING DIGITIZED, TRANSMITTED THROUGH SPACE, AND REGURGITATED ON A STICKY CASINO FLOOR.
PRINCESS ATALANTA SAID THE IMT COULD -- THEORETICALLY -- REMOVE ALIEN PATHOGENS DURING THE TRANSIT PROCESS.*
YEAH, WELL, SO FAR, EVERY TIME THE EGGHEADS AT U.R.E. HEADQUARTERS TRY IT, IT TURNS SOME POOR SLOB INSIDE-OUT. I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.
*LAST ISSUE

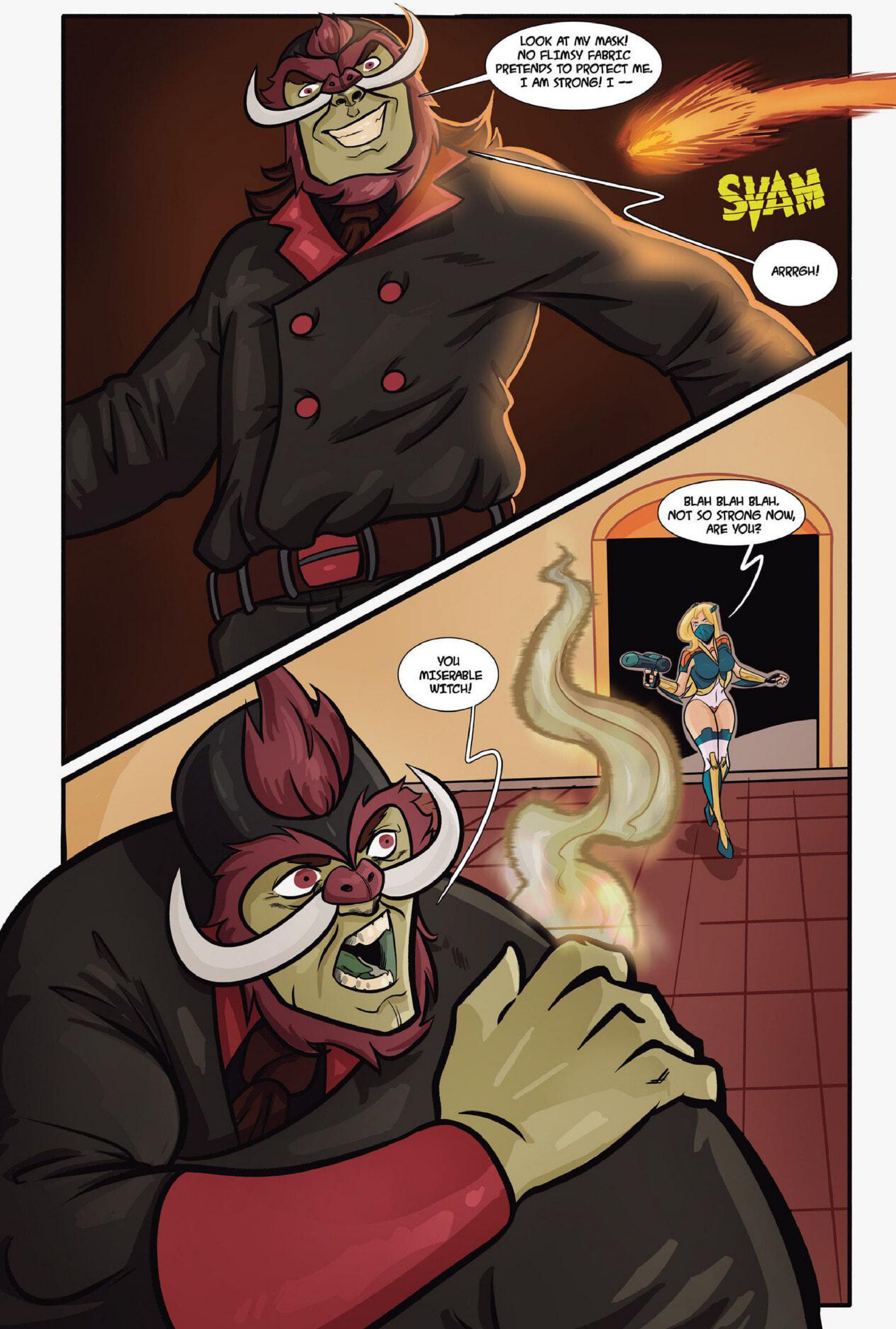

WHAT THE HELL'S THE MATTER WITH THESE PEOPLE? DON'T THEY KNOW HOW TO WEAR A MASK?
I... DON'T THINK THEY CARE, STORMY.
HEY! PULL THAT UP OVER YOUR NOSE!
MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS, MAMMARY GLANDS!
WHAT DID YOU SAY TO ME?
STORMY --
DAMN IT! PUT A MASK ON, YOU FREAKIN' IDIOT!
UH, WELL, BUT I...
UH BLUH WHAT? WHAT? DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO WEAR A MASK?
I'M A RYLOTHIAN.

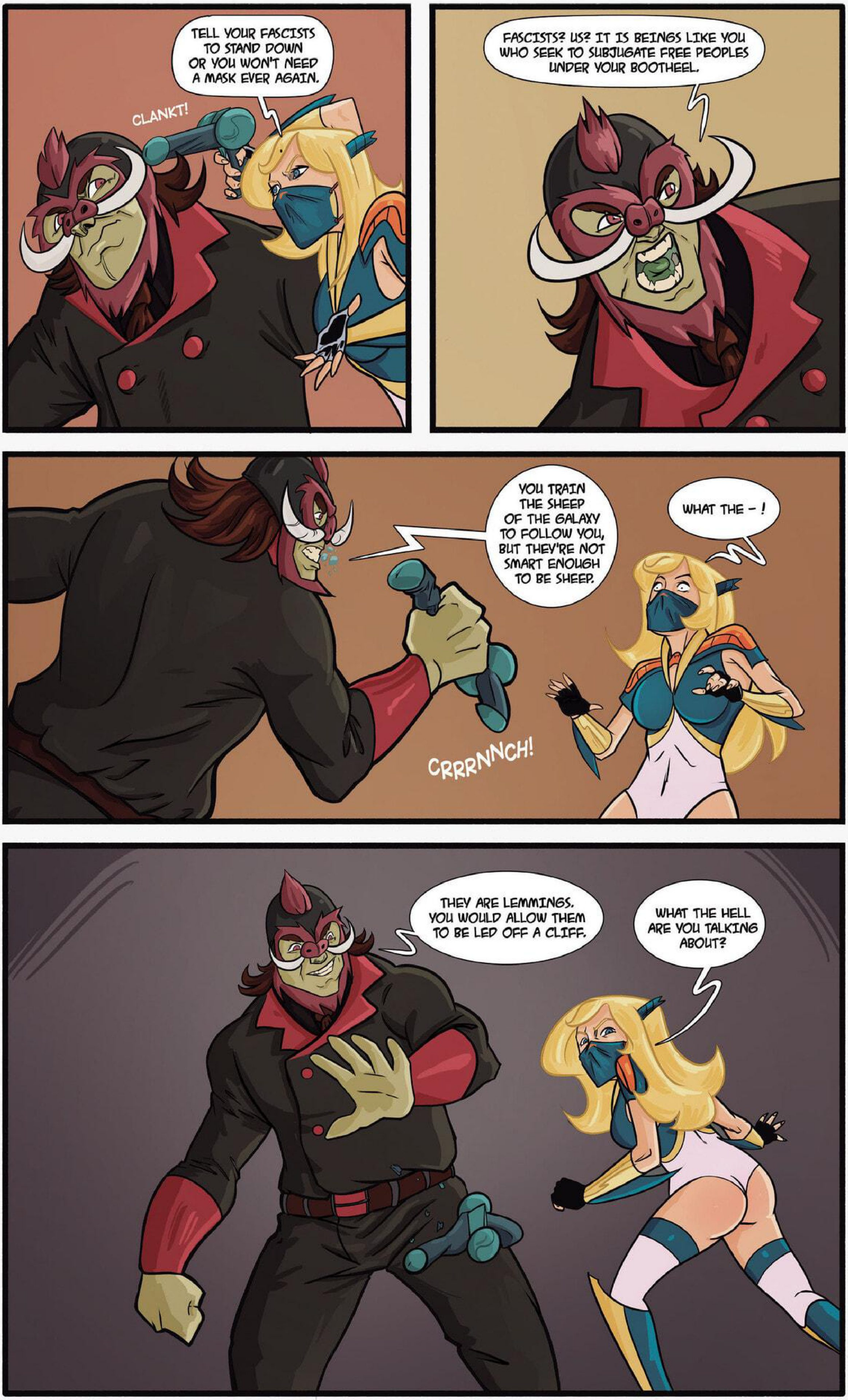

RYLOTHIANS CAN DIE, YOU KNOW! I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOUR --
UH... STORMY? RYLOTHIANS DON'T BREATHE AT ALL.
OKAY. GO AWAY.
CRAZY EARTH BIMBO...
ARE YOU THE BEINGS WHO JUST ARRIVED IN A VESSEL FROM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF EARTH?
YES, OFFICER. IS THERE A --
HEY! YOU! C'MERE! DON'T RUN AWAY FROM ME WHEN I'M TALKING TO YOU!
ADMINISTRATOR CALDO WOULD LIKE A WORD WITH YOUR CAPTAIN.
YEAH, SO WOULD WE.
OH, YOU'LL WEAR THAT MASK IF I TELL YOU TO WEAR IT, YOU SCALY FREAK!
I'LL... UH... I'LL GO GET HER.

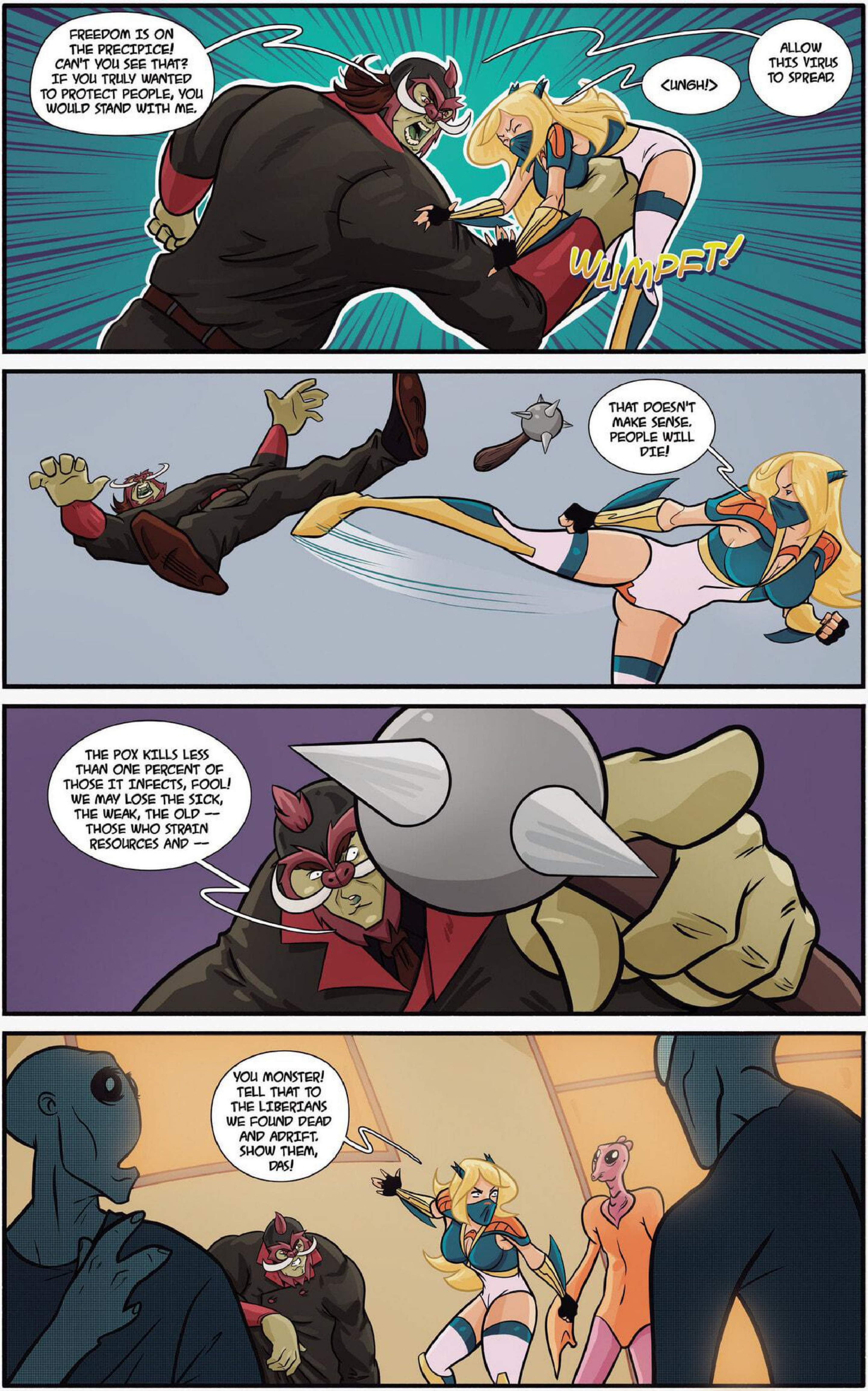

CAPTAIN DANIELS, WE HAVE A PROBLEM.
YEAH, I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO GO OFF HALF-COCKED AND YELL AT YOUR PATRONS, BUT --
YES, I DON'T KNOW WHAT "HALF-COCKED" MEANS --
HEH. IN MY FORMER PROFESSION, IT MEANT --
STORMY!
BUT I ASSURE YOU, CAPTAIN, YOU ARE NOT THE PROBLEM.
NO, YOUR PROBLEM IS THE DEAD ALIENS WE FOUND ADRIFT A FEW PARSECS FROM HERE.
KILLED BY THE RIGELLIAN POX! SHOW HER, DOC.
YES, THAT IS UNFORTUANTE. LIBERIANS ARE HIGHLY SUSCEPTIBLE TO THE EFFECTS OF RP.
IT LOOKS LIKE THE ENTIRE STATION IS ON THE VERGE OF AN OUTBREAK! THERE ARE SO MANY SPECIES COMING AND GOING THAT YOU COULD CAUSE A QUADRANT-WIDE PANDEMIC.
WHY AREN'T YOU QUARANTINING THOSE SHIPS?

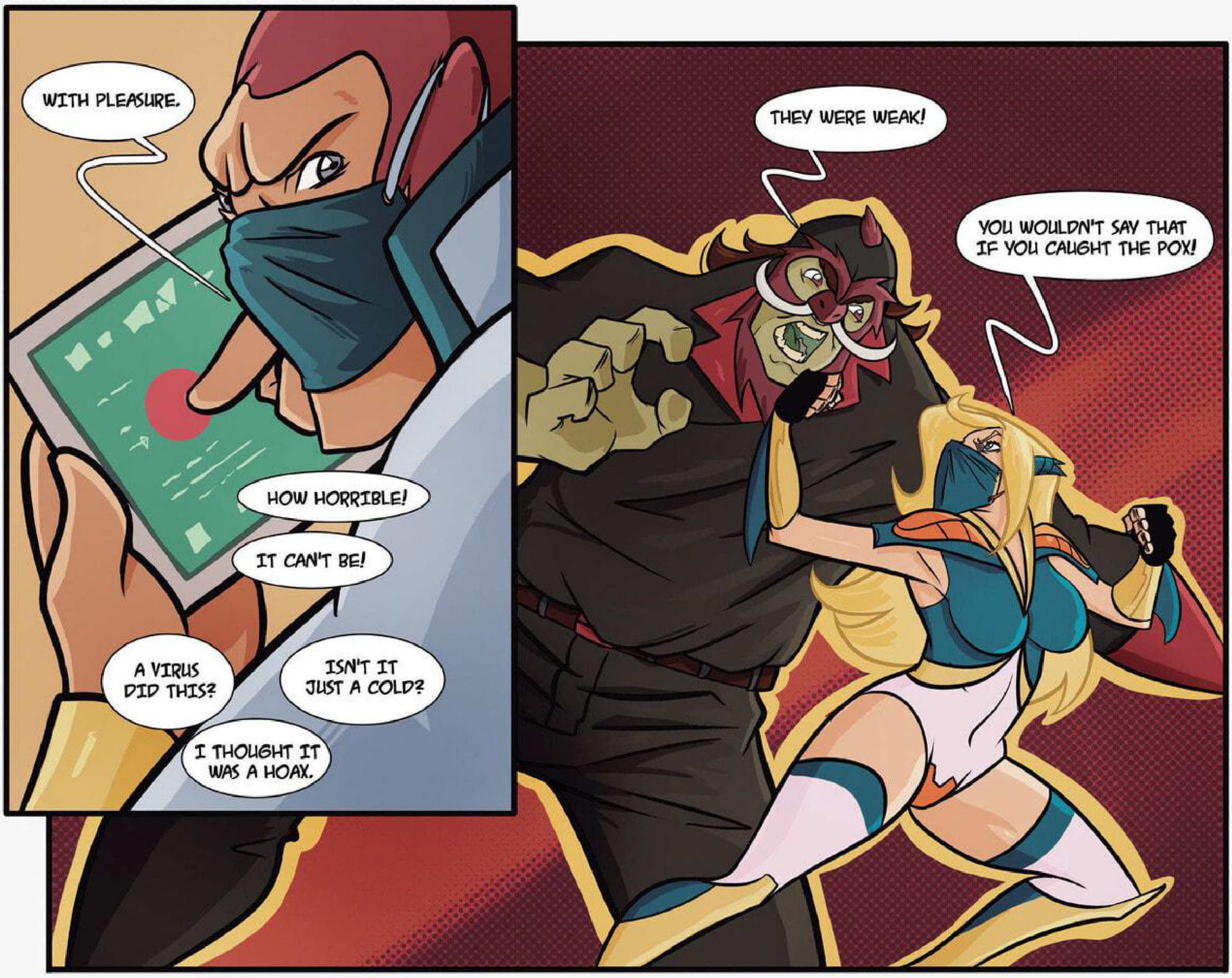

WE WILL, IF YOU SPEAK FOR THE U.R.E.
YOU'RE DAMN STRAIGHT, I DO!
WELL, THE U.R.E. WOULDN'T ALLOW MANDATORY VACCINATIONS, PROOF OF VACCINATIONS, MASKING, OR QUARANTINING UNDER ORDON.
YEAH? AND LOOK WHERE THAT GOT HIM!
I PURGED THAT MALICIOUS ORDON CODE FROM THE SYSTEM. HOPEFULLY, YOU'RE DEALING WITH PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN SCIENCE NOW.
IT WASN'T UNTIL PRESIDENT OCASIO-CORTEZ THAT EARTH WAS ABLE TO SLOW THE CORONAVIRUS PLAGUE OF THE 21ST CENTURY, AND THAT WAS AFTER THE UPSIOLON VARIANT DAMN NEAR WIPED OUT FLORIDA. SO LOCK THIS PLACE DOWN. NOW.
WELL, THAT'S THE PROBLEM I WANTED TO SPEAK WITH YOU ABOUT.
WHAT PROBLEM?
NOT WHAT.
WHO.

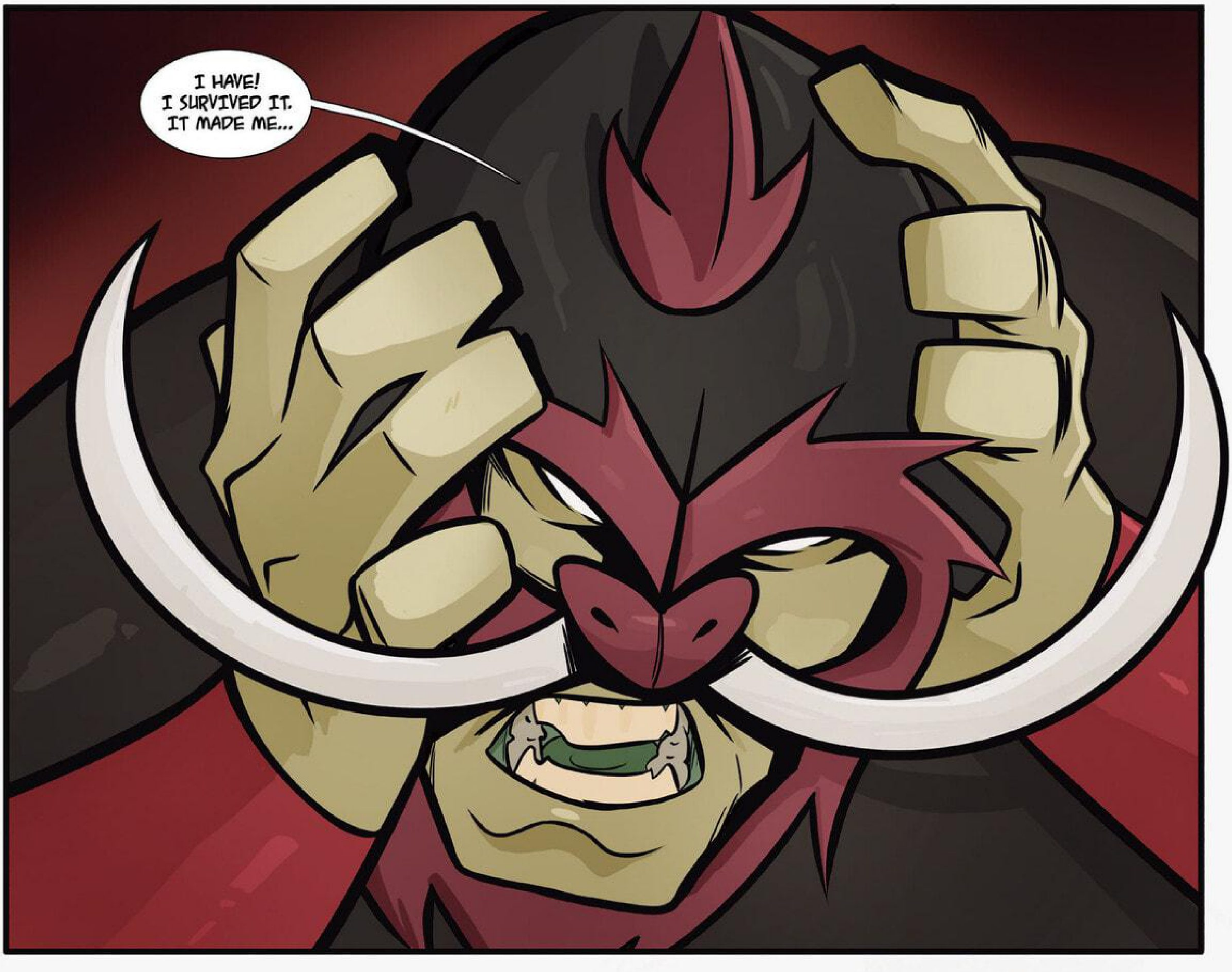

GOOD SENTIENTS OF PLEASURE BAY! DO NOT FEAR. I AM BARON ABERKENNEN OF THE MYOPIAN DOMINION, AND I AM HERE TO FREE YOU!
THESE MASKS ARE A VIOLATION OF YOUR FREEDOMS! THE RULING CLASS SEEKS TO ENSLAVE YOU THROUGH SHAME AND DEGRADATION FOR DARING NOT TO FOLLOW THEIR ANTI-SCIENCE MANDATES. THEY WISH TO POISON YOU WITH THEIR SO-CALLED VACCINATIONS AND SILENCE YOU WITH A FACE DIAPER.
BUT YOU HAVE A VOICE WITH US! REMOVE THOSE MASKS. YOU'LL DISCOVER, AS THE SONS OF MYOPIA HAVE, THAT THE STRONG WILL SURVIVE!

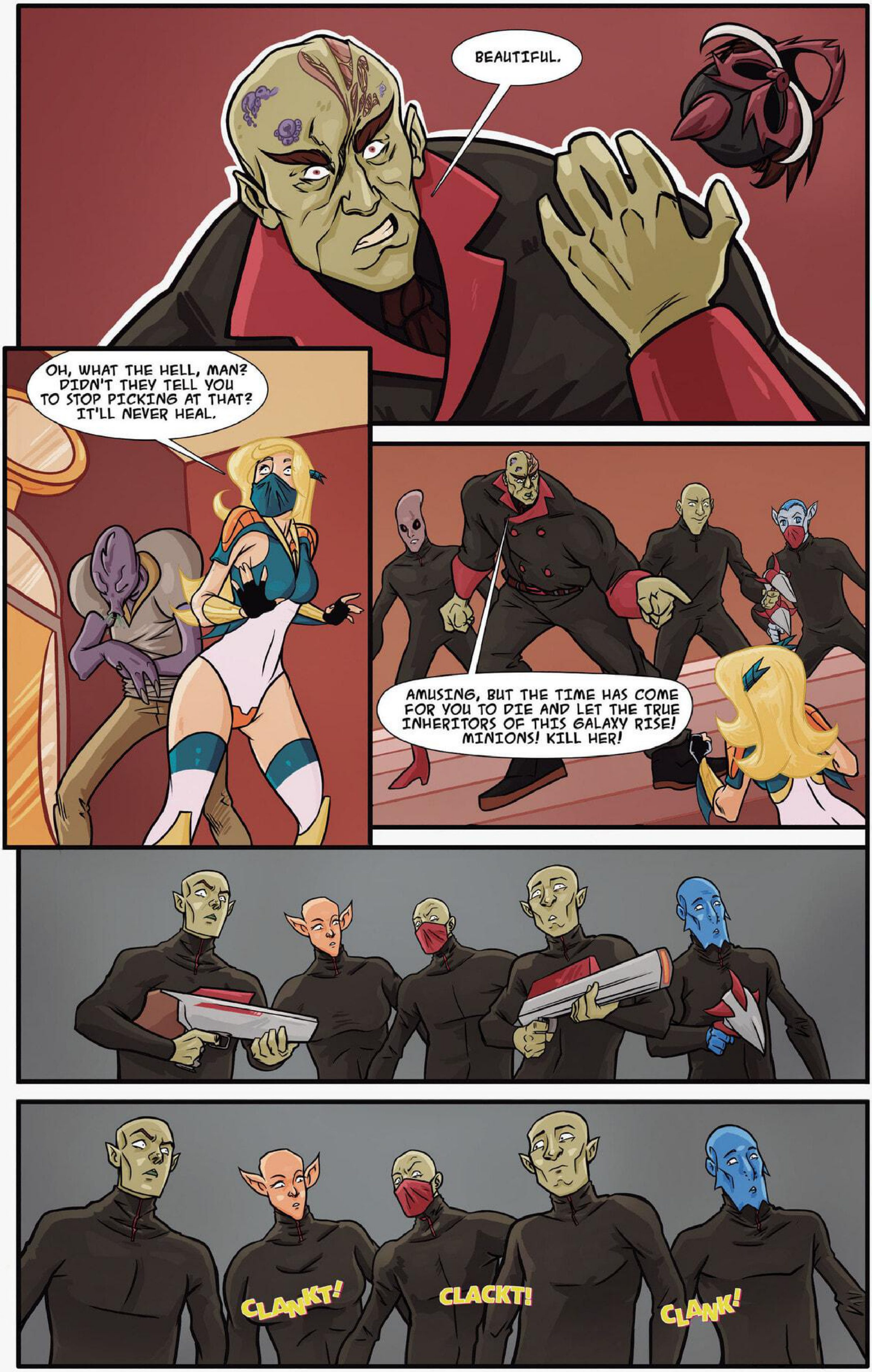

LOOK AT MY MASK! NO FLIMSY FABRIC PRETENDS TO PROTECT ME. I AM STRONG! I --
SVAM
ARRRGH!
BLAH BLAH BLAH. NOT SO STRONG NOW, ARE YOU?
YOU MISERABLE WITCH!

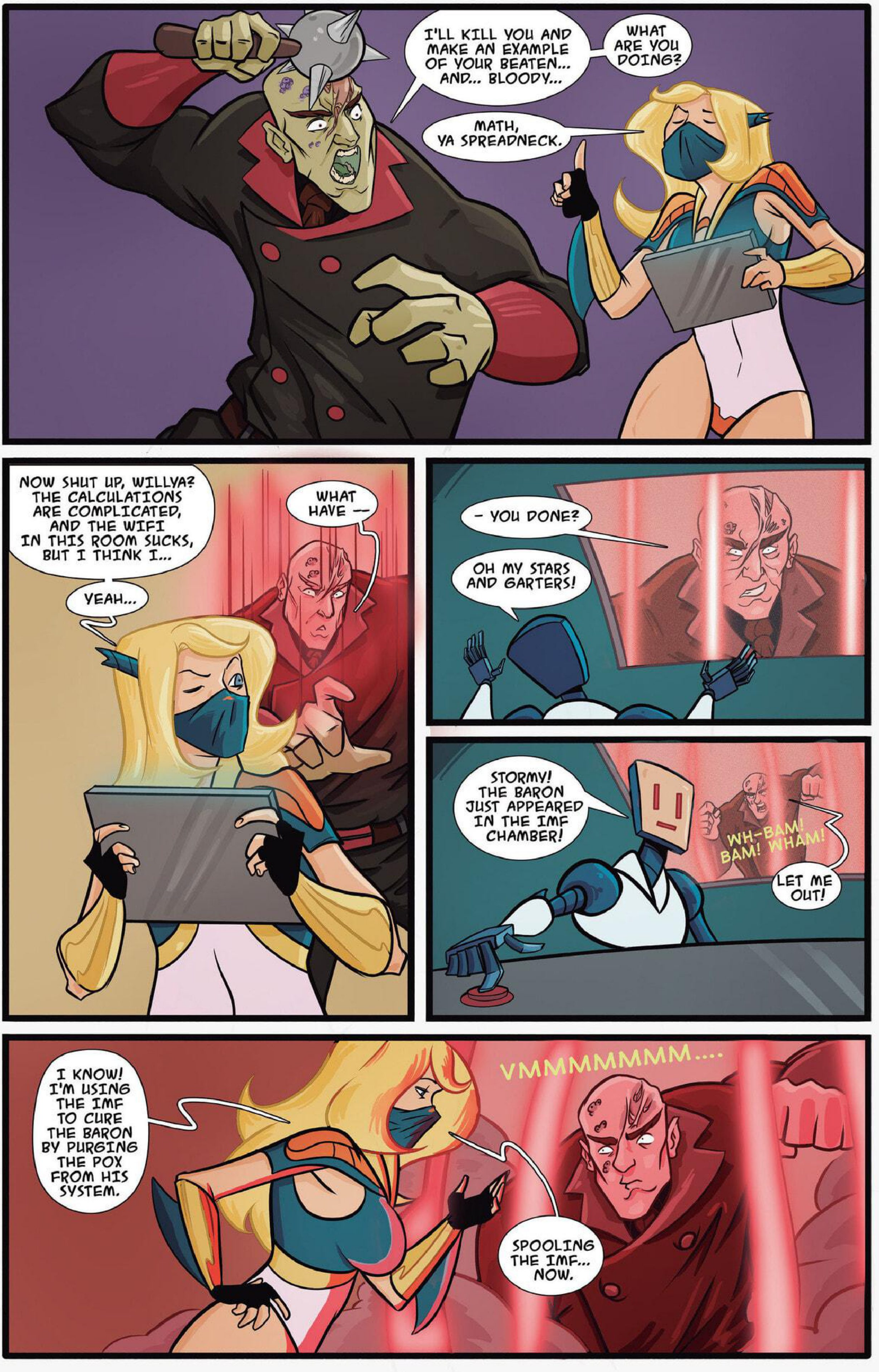

TELL YOUR FASCISTS TO STAND DOWN OR YOU WON'T NEED A MASK EVER AGAIN.
CLANKT!
FASCISTS? US? IT IS BEINGS LIKE YOU WHO SEEK TO SUBJUGATE FREE PEOPLES UNDER YOUR BOOTHEEL.
YOU TRAIN THE SHEEP OF THE GALAXY TO FOLLOW YOU, BUT THEY'RE NOT SMART ENOUGH TO BE SHEEP.
WHAT THE – !
CRRRNNCH!
THEY ARE LEMMINGS. YOU WOULD ALLOW THEM TO BE LED OFF A CLIFF.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

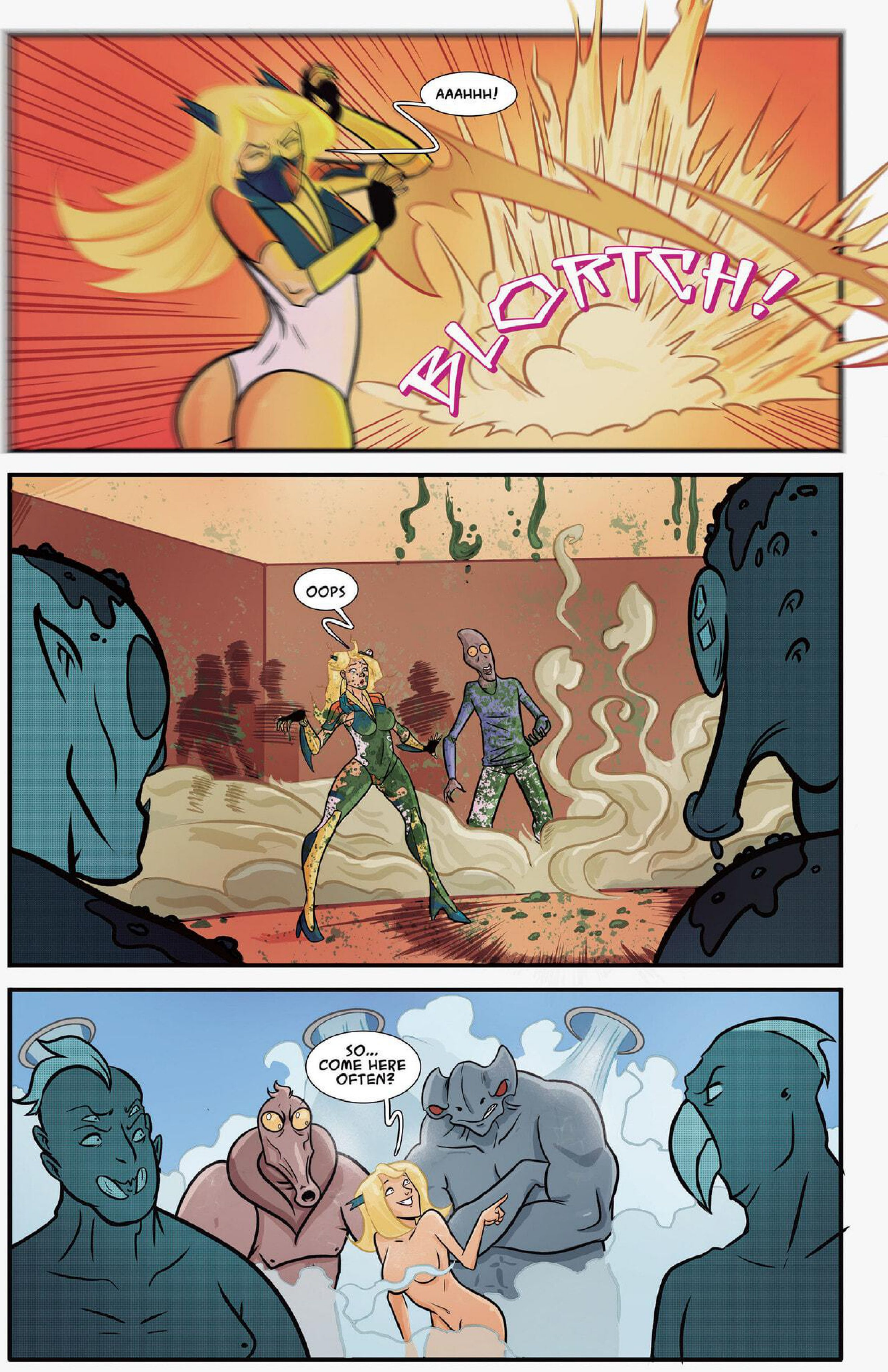

FREEDOM IS ON THE PRECIPICE! CAN'T YOU SEE THAT? IF YOU TRULY WANTED TO PROTECT PEOPLE, YOU WOULD STAND WITH ME.
<UNGH!>
ALLOW THIS VIRUS TO SPREAD.
WUMPFT!
THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE. PEOPLE WILL DIE!
THE POX KILLS LESS THAN ONE PERCENT OF THOSE IT INFECTS, FOOL! WE MAY LOSE THE SICK, THE WEAK, THE OLD -- THOSE WHO STRAIN RESOURCES AND --
YOU MONSTER! TELL THAT TO THE LIBERIANS WE FOUND DEAD AND ADRIFT. SHOW THEM, DAS!


WITH PLEASURE.
HOW HORRIBLE!
IT CAN'T BE!
A VIRUS DID THIS?
ISN'T IT JUST A COLD?
I THOUGHT IT WAS A HOAX.
THEY WERE WEAK!
YOU WOULDN'T SAY THAT IF YOU CAUGHT THE POX!

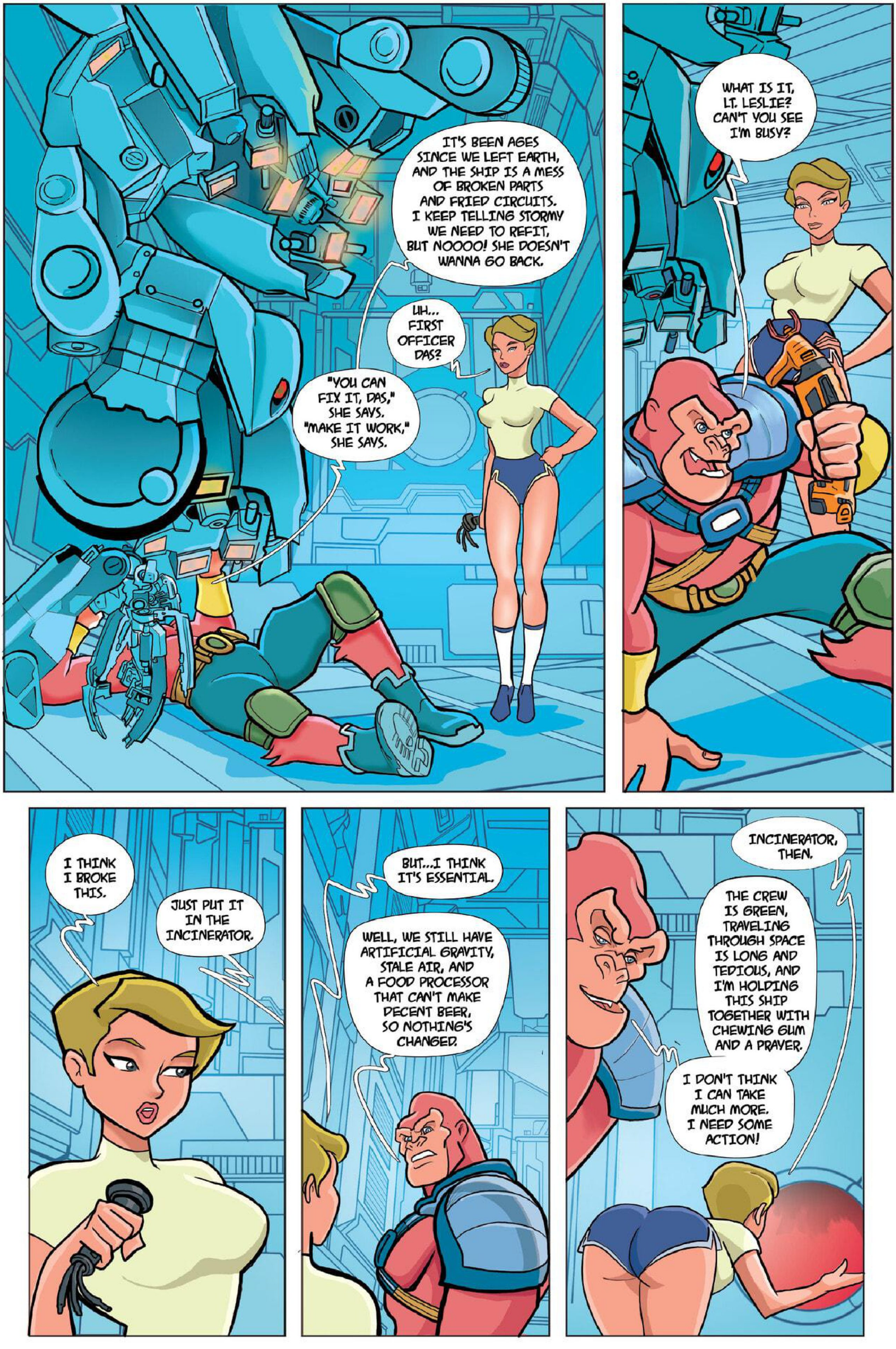

I HAVE! I SURVIVED IT. IT MADE ME...

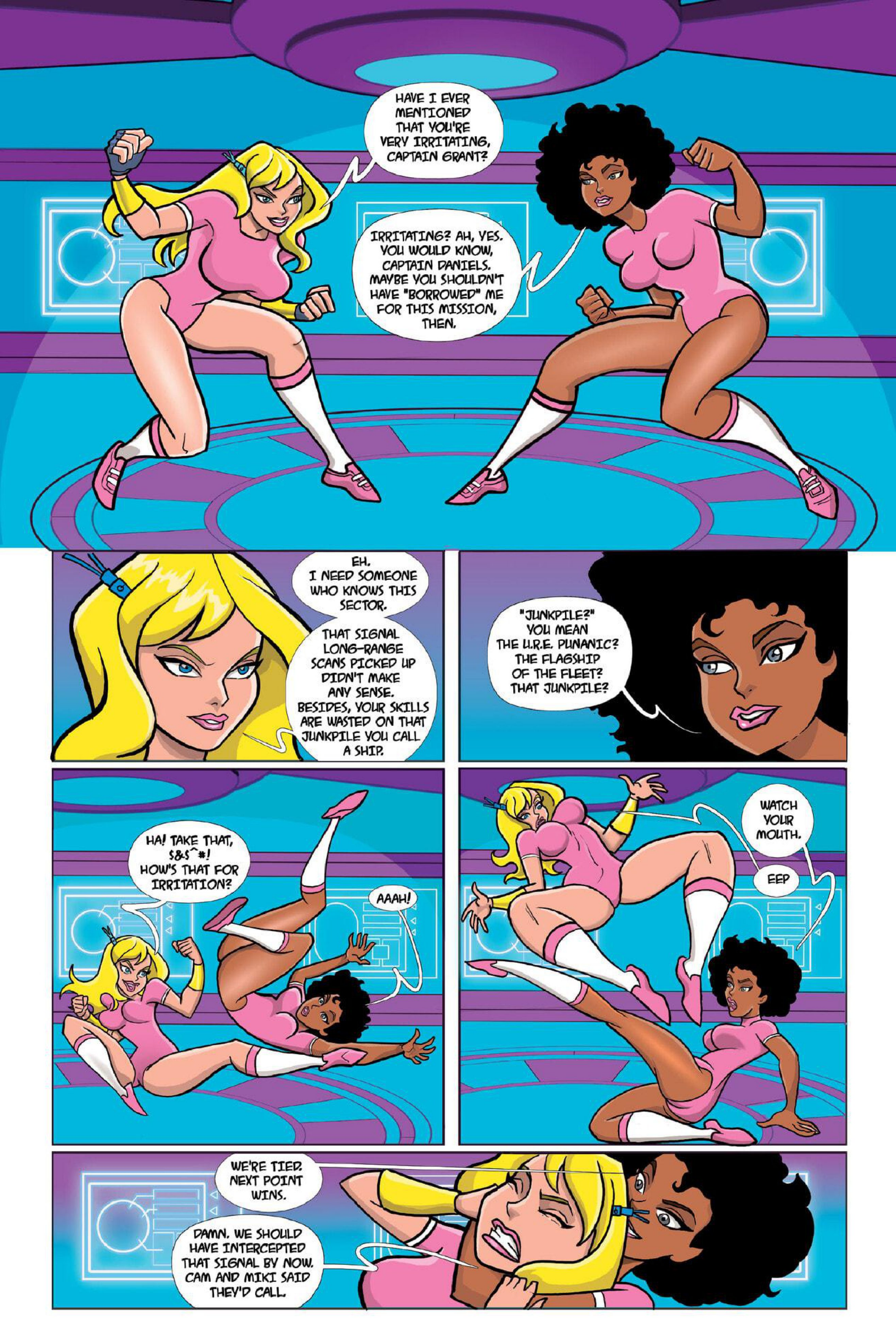

BEAUTIFUL.
OH, WHAT THE HELL, MAN? DIDN'T THEY TELL YOU TO STOP PICKING AT THAT? IT'LL NEVER HEAL.
AMUSING, BUT THE TIME HAS COME FOR YOU TO DIE AND LET THE TRUE INHERITORS OF THIS GALAXY RISE! MINIONS! KILL HER!
CLANKT!
CLACKT!
CLANK!

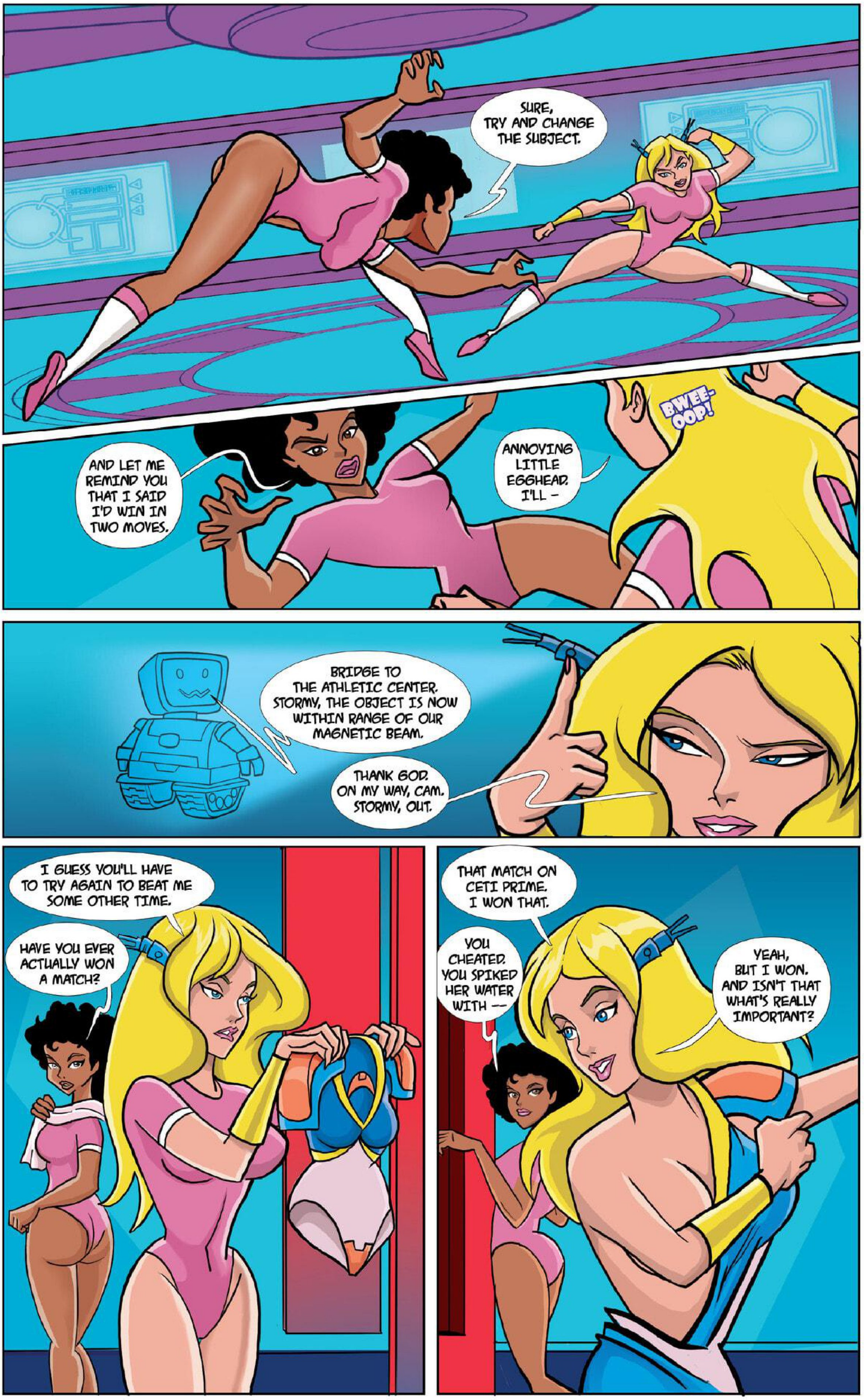

I'LL KILL YOU AND MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF YOUR BEATEN... AND... BLOODY...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MATH, YA SPREADNECK.
NOW SHUT UP, WILLYA? THE CALCULATIONS ARE COMPLICATED, AND THE WIFI IN THIS ROOM SUCKS, BUT I THINK I...
WHAT HAVE --
YEAH...
- YOU DONE?
OH MY STARS AND GARTERS!
STORMY! THE BARON JUST APPEARED IN THE IMF CHAMBER!
WH-BAM! BAM! WHAM!
LET ME OUT!
I KNOW! I'M USING THE IMF TO CURE THE BARON BY PURGING THE POX FROM HIS SYSTEM.
VMMMMMMM....
SPOOLING THE IMF... NOW.

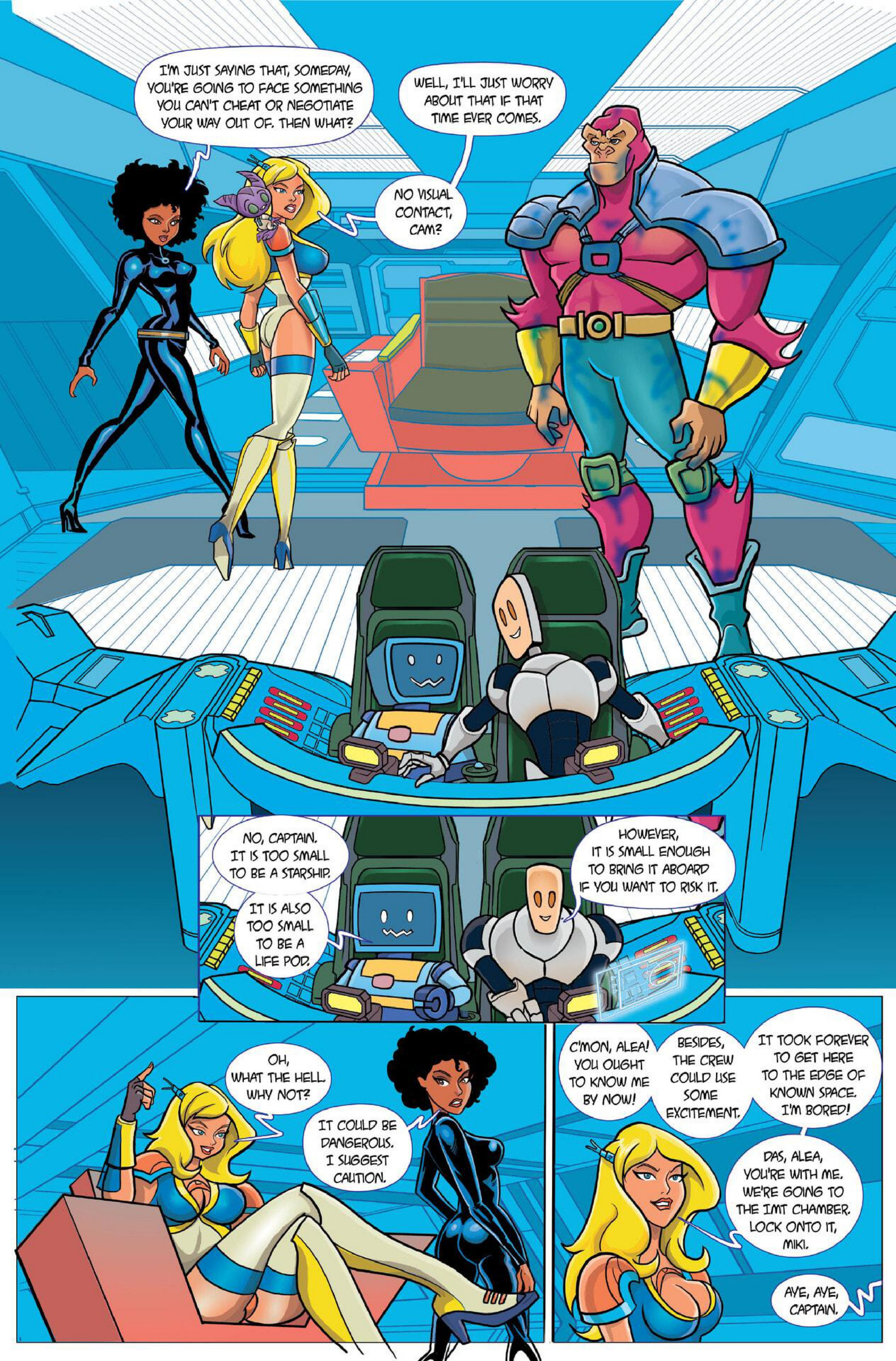

AAAHHH!
BLORTCH!
OOPS
SO... COME HERE OFTEN?

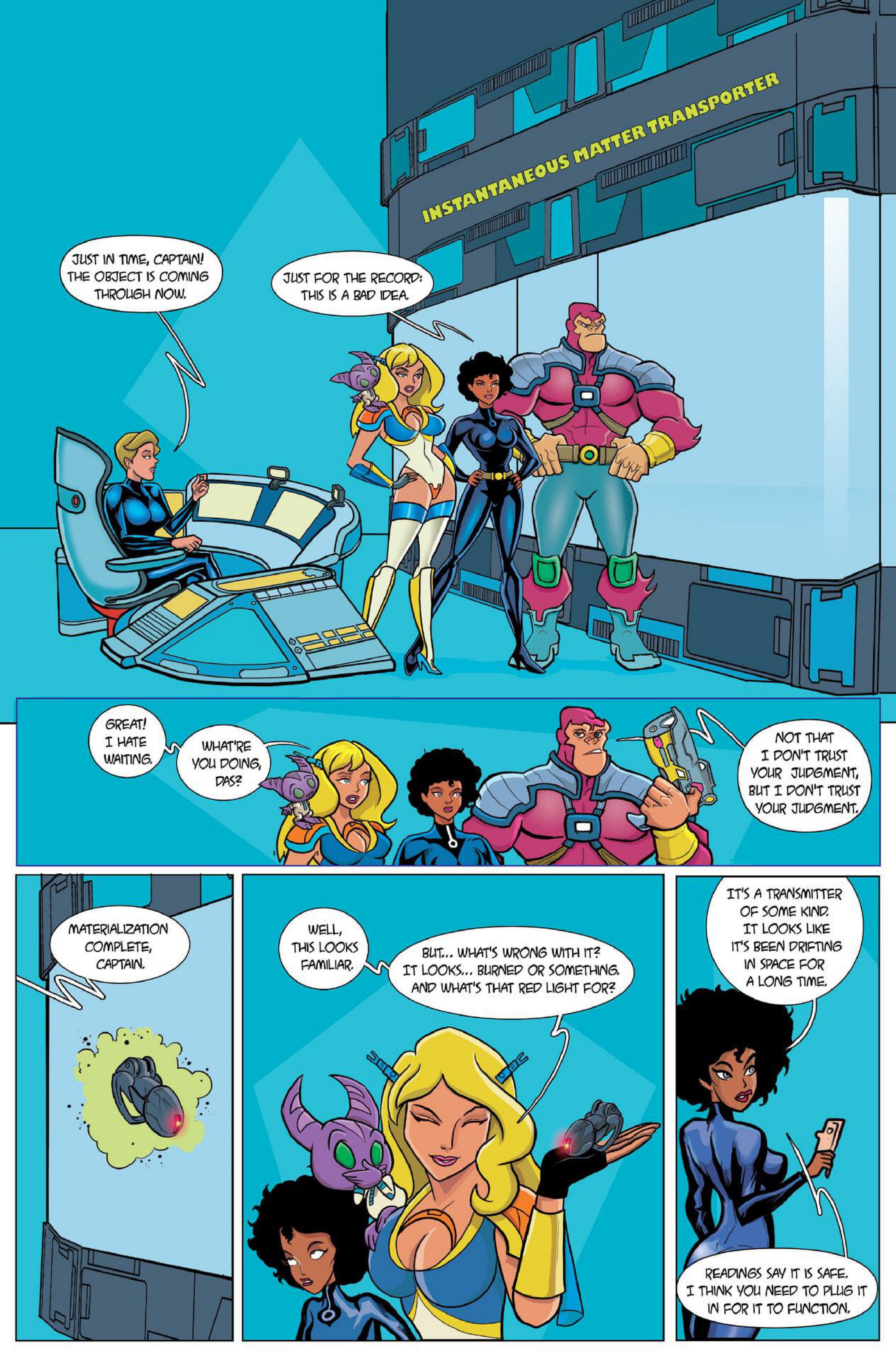
SYSTEM S
MISSION
EIGHT

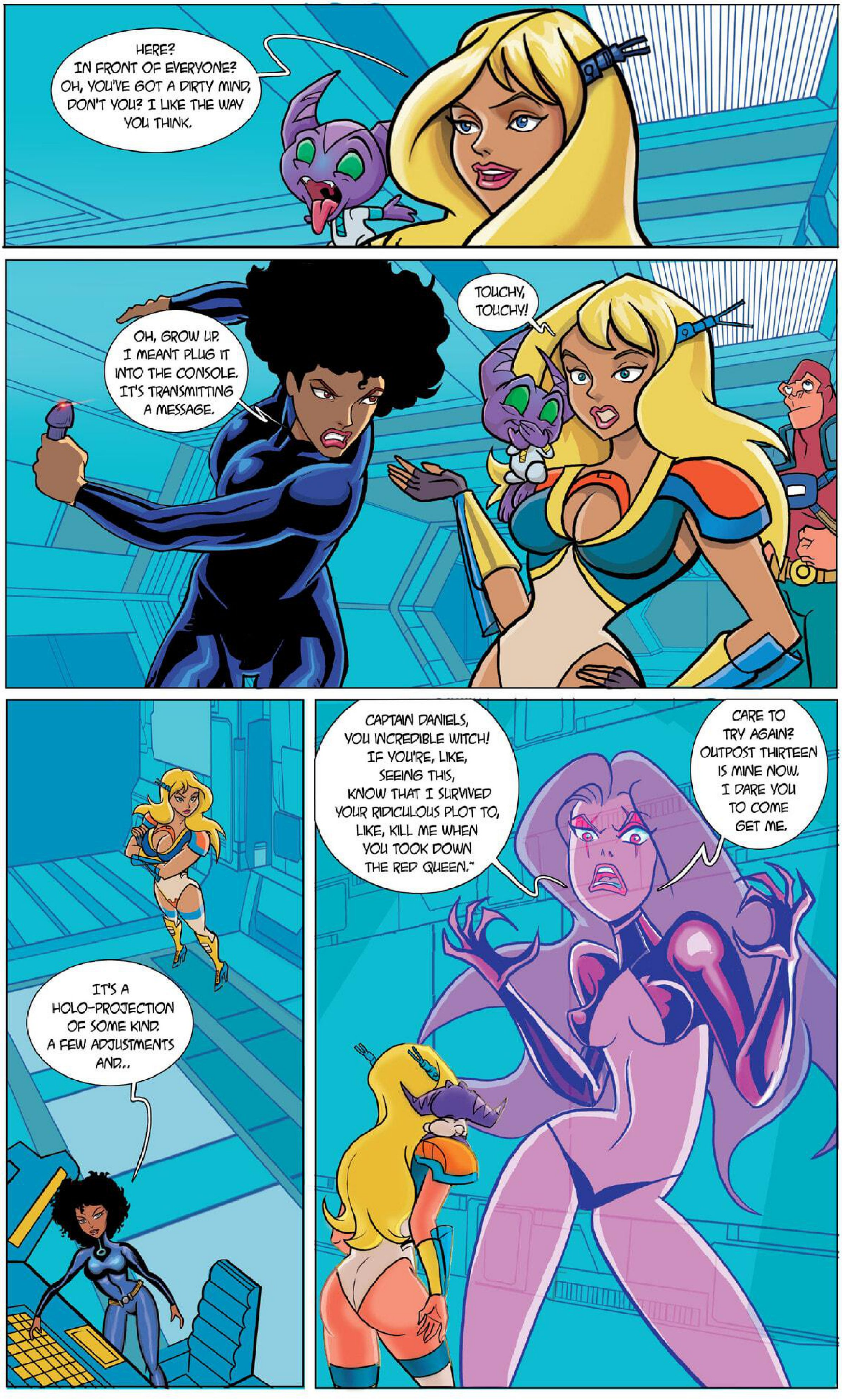

IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE WE LEFT EARTH, AND THE SHIP IS A MESS OF BROKEN PARTS AND FRIED CIRCUITS. I KEEP TELLING STORMY WE NEED TO REFIT, BUT NOOOO! SHE DOESN'T WANNA GO BACK.
"YOU CAN FIX IT, DAS," SHE SAYS. "MAKE IT WORK," SHE SAYS.
UH... FIRST OFFICER DAS?
WHAT IS IT, LT. LESLIE? CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY?
I THINK I BROKE THIS.
JUST PUT IT IN THE INCINERATOR.
BUT...I THINK IT'S ESSENTIAL.
WELL, WE STILL HAVE ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY, STALE AIR, AND A FOOD PROCESSOR THAT CAN'T MAKE DECENT BEER, SO NOTHING'S CHANGED.
INCINERATOR, THEN.
THE CREW IS GREEN, TRAVELING THROUGH SPACE IS LONG AND TEDIOUS, AND I'M HOLDING THIS SHIP TOGETHER WITH CHEWING GUM AND A PRAYER.
I DON'T THINK I CAN TAKE MUCH MORE. I NEED SOME ACTION!

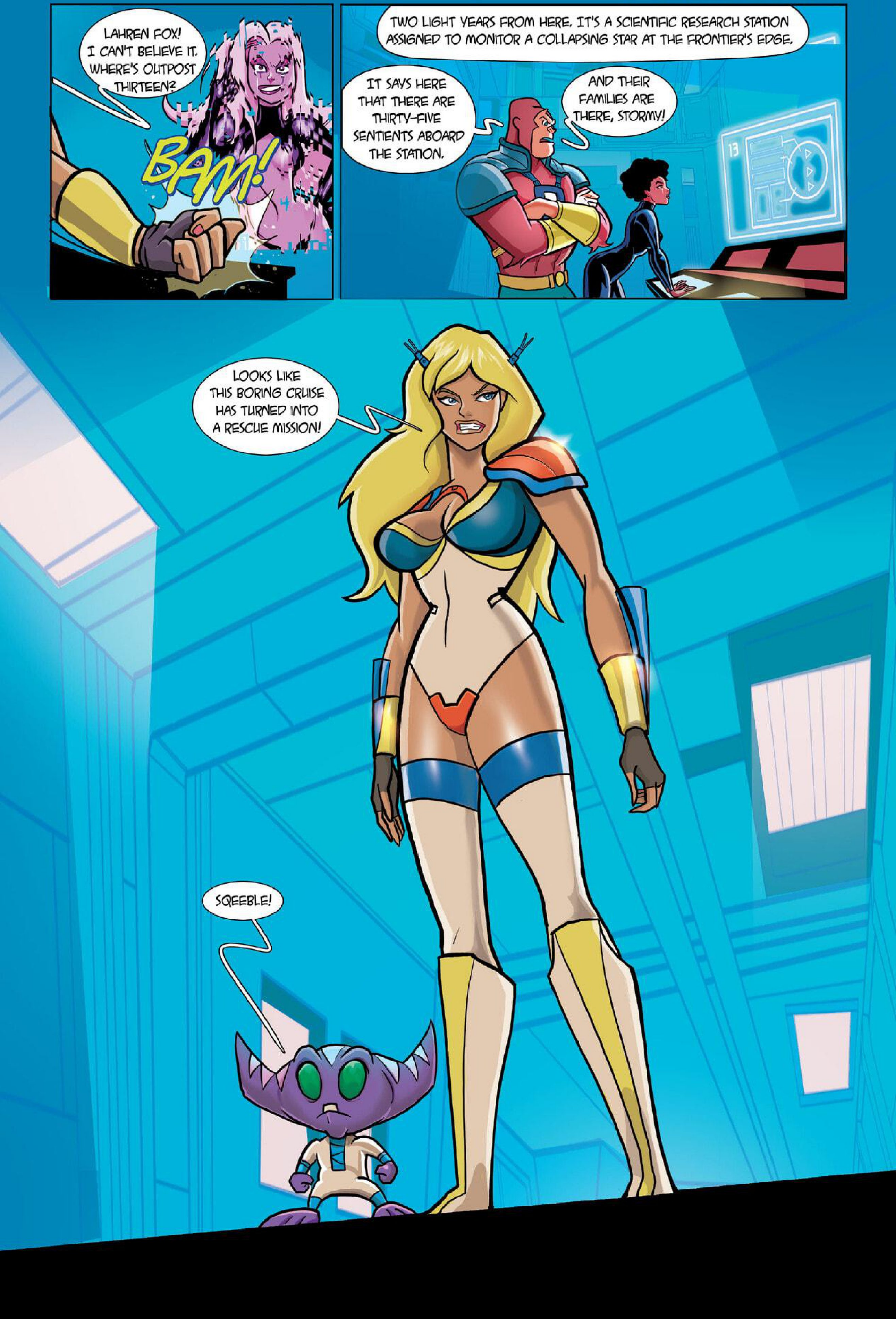

HAVE I EVER MENTIONED THAT YOU'RE VERY IRRITATING, CAPTAIN GRANT?
IRRITATING? AH, YES. YOU WOULD KNOW, CAPTAIN DANIELS. MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE "BORROWED" ME FOR THIS MISSION, THEN.
EH. I NEED SOMEONE WHO KNOWS THIS SECTOR.
THAT SIGNAL LONG-RANGE SCANS PICKED UP DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE. BESIDES, YOUR SKILLS ARE WASTED ON THAT JUNKPILE YOU CALL A SHIP.
"JUNKPILE?" YOU MEAN THE U.R.E. PUNANIC? THE FLAGSHIP OF THE FLEET? THAT JUNKPILE?
HA! TAKE THAT, $&$^#! HOW'S THAT FOR IRRITATION?
AAAH!
WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
EEP
WE'RE TIED. NEXT POINT WINS.
DAMN. WE SHOULD HAVE INTERCEPTED THAT SIGNAL BY NOW. CAM AND MIKI SAID THEY'D CALL.

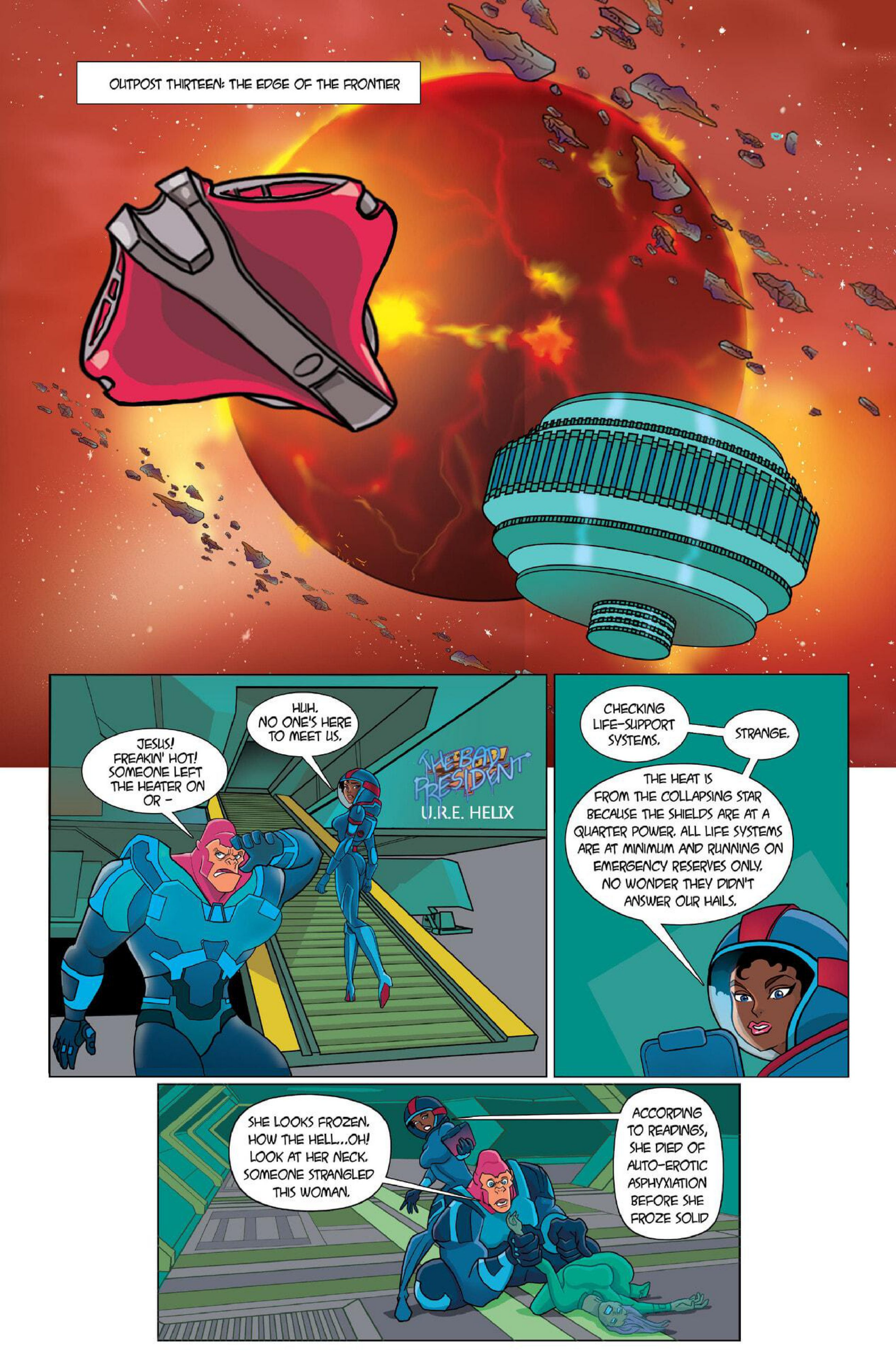

SURE, TRY AND CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
AND LET ME REMIND YOU THAT I SAID I'D WIN IN TWO MOVES.
BWEE-OOP!
ANNOYING LITTLE EGGHEAD. I'LL –
BRIDGE TO THE ATHLETIC CENTER. STORMY, THE OBJECT IS NOW WITHIN RANGE OF OUR MAGNETIC BEAM.
THANK GOD. ON MY WAY, CAM. STORMY, OUT.
I GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY AGAIN TO BEAT ME SOME OTHER TIME.
HAVE YOU EVER ACTUALLY WON A MATCH?
THAT MATCH ON CETI PRIME. I WON THAT.
YOU CHEATED. YOU SPIKED HER WATER WITH —
YEAH, BUT I WON. AND ISN'T THAT WHAT'S REALLY IMPORTANT?


I'M JUST SAYING THAT, SOMEDAY, YOU'RE GOING TO FACE SOMETHING YOU CAN'T CHEAT OR NEGOTIATE YOUR WAY OUT OF. THEN WHAT?
WELL, I'LL JUST WORRY ABOUT THAT IF THAT TIME EVER COMES.
NO VISUAL CONTACT, CAM?
NO, CAPTAIN. IT IS TOO SMALL TO BE A STARSHIP.
IT IS ALSO TOO SMALL TO BE A LIFE POD.
HOWEVER, IT IS SMALL ENOUGH TO BRING IT ABOARD IF YOU WANT TO RISK IT.
OH, WHAT THE HELL. WHY NOT?
IT COULD BE DANGEROUS. I SUGGEST CAUTION.
C'MON, ALEA! YOU OUGHT TO KNOW ME BY NOW!
BESIDES, THE CREW COULD USE SOME EXCITEMENT.
IT TOOK FOREVER TO GET HERE TO THE EDGE OF KNOWN SPACE. I'M BORED!
DAS, ALEA, YOU'RE WITH ME. WE'RE GOING TO THE IMT CHAMBER. LOCK ONTO IT, MIKI.
AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN.

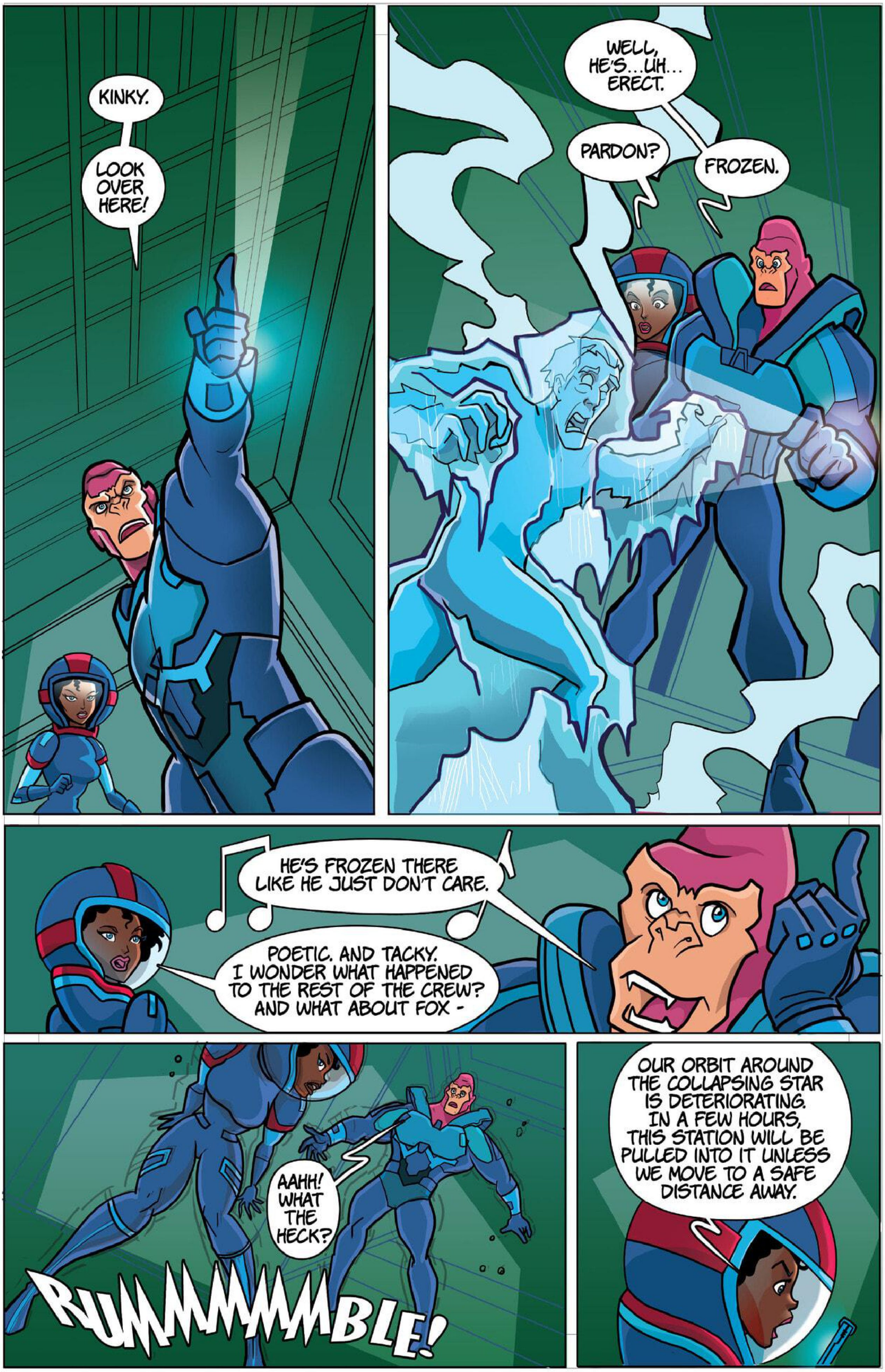

INSTANTANEOUS MATTER TRANSPORTER
JUST IN TIME, CAPTAIN! THE OBJECT IS COMING THROUGH NOW.
JUST FOR THE RECORD: THIS IS A BAD IDEA.
GREAT! I HATE WAITING.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, DAS?
NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT, BUT I DON'T TRUST YOUR JUDGMENT.
MATERIALIZATION COMPLETE, CAPTAIN.
WELL, THIS LOOKS FAMILIAR.
BUT... WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT? IT LOOKS... BURNED OR SOMETHING. AND WHAT'S THAT RED LIGHT FOR?
IT'S A TRANSMITTER OF SOME KIND. IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S BEEN DRIFTING IN SPACE FOR A LONG TIME.
READINGS SAY IT IS SAFE. I THINK YOU NEED TO PLUG IT IN FOR IT TO FUNCTION.

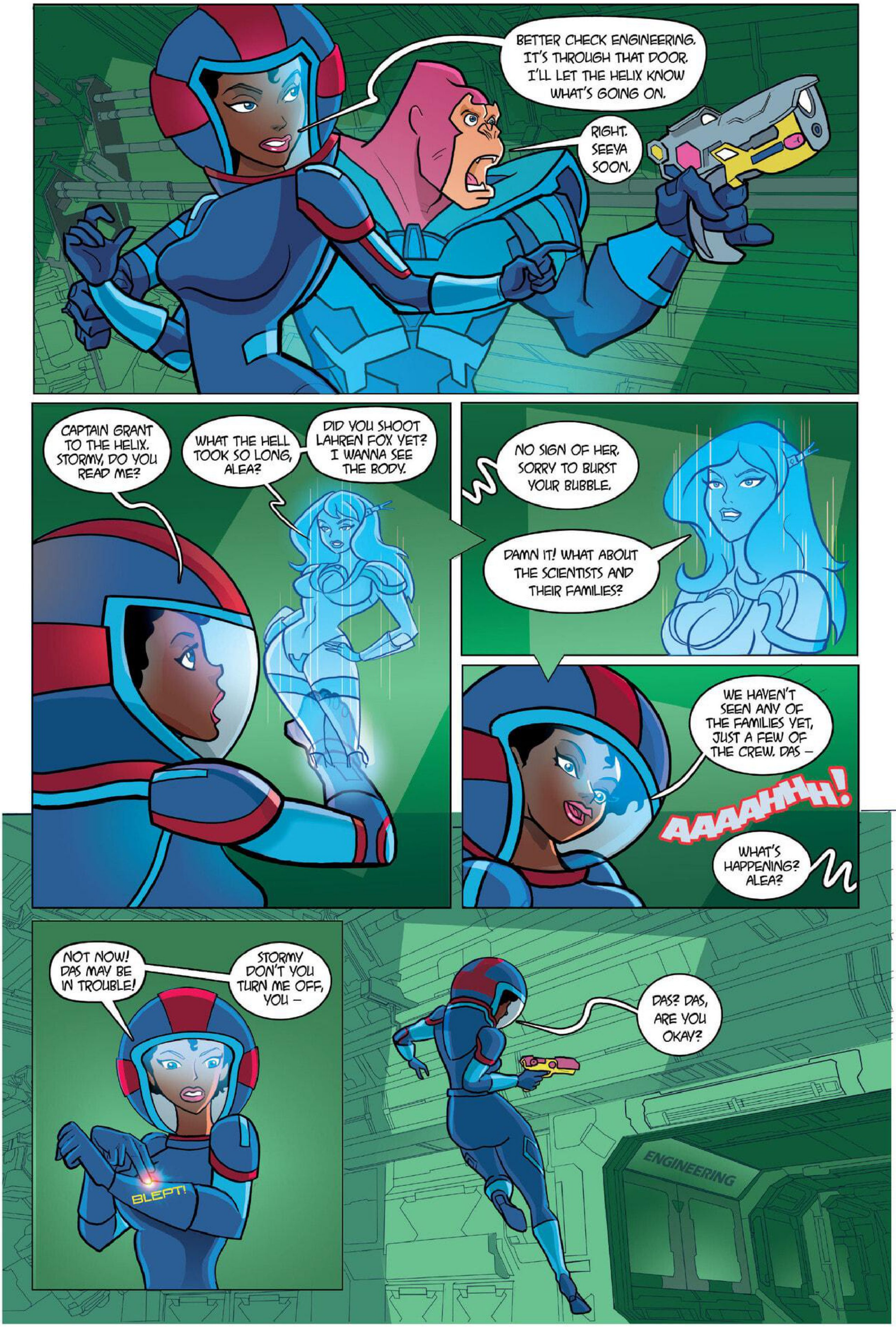

HERE? IN FRONT OF EVERYONE? OH, YOU'VE GOT A DIRTY MIND, DON'T YOU? I LIKE THE WAY YOU THINK.
OH, GROW UP. I MEANT PLUG IT INTO THE CONSOLE. IT'S TRANSMITTING A MESSAGE.
TOUCHY, TOUCHY!
IT'S A HOLO-PROJECTION OF SOME KIND. A FEW ADJUSTMENTS AND...
CAPTAIN DANIELS, YOU INCREDIBLE WITCH! IF YOU'RE, LIKE, SEEING THIS, KNOW THAT I SURVIVED YOUR RIDICULOUS PLOT TO, LIKE, KILL ME WHEN YOU TOOK DOWN THE RED QUEEN.*
CARE TO TRY AGAIN? OUTPOST THIRTEEN IS MINE NOW. I DARE YOU TO COME GET ME.

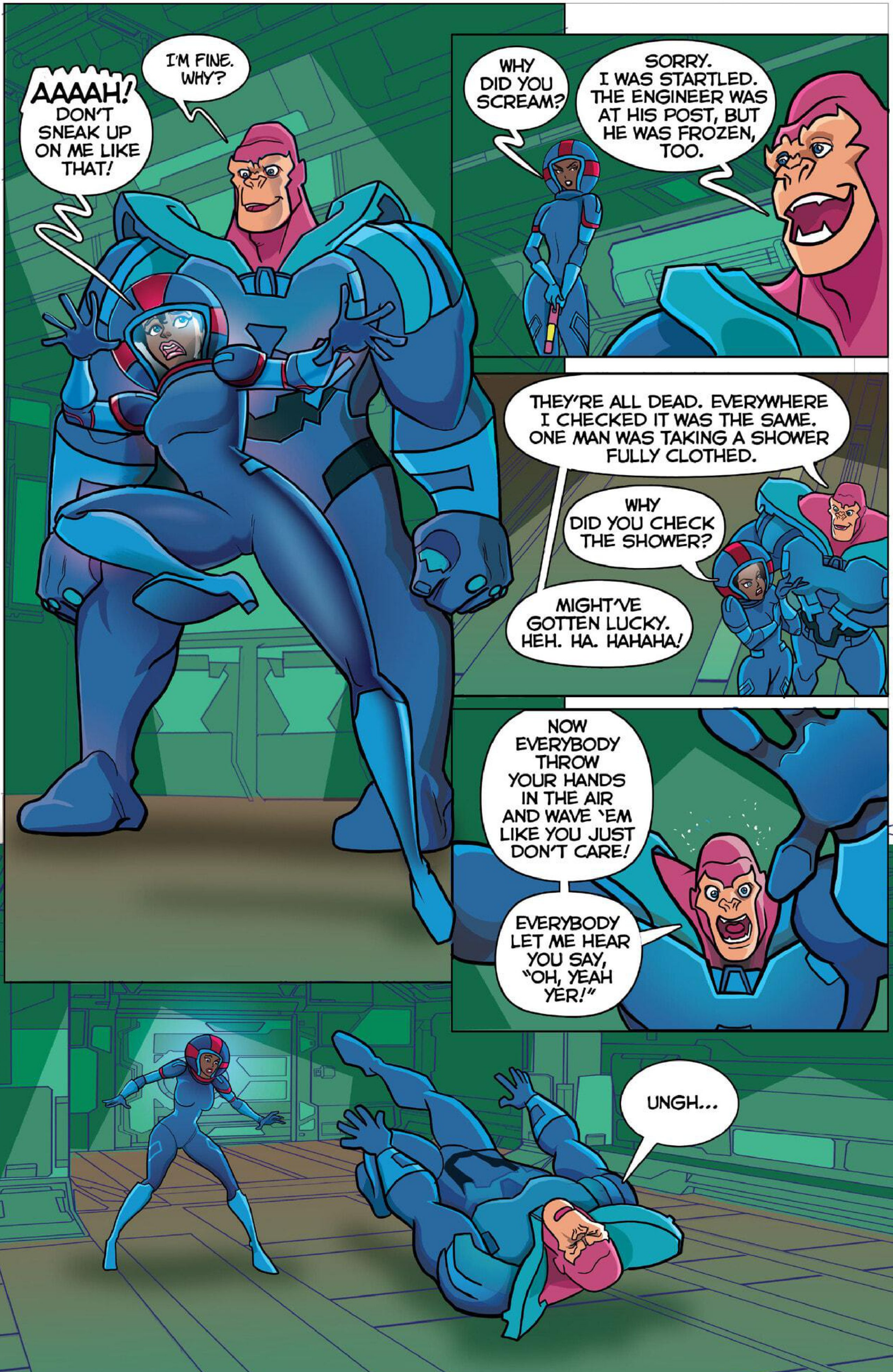

LAHREN FOX! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. WHERE'S OUTPOST THIRTEEN?
BAM!
TWO LIGHT YEARS FROM HERE. IT'S A SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH STATION ASSIGNED TO MONITOR A COLLAPSING STAR AT THE FRONTIER'S EDGE.
IT SAYS HERE THAT THERE ARE THIRTY-FIVE SENTIENTS ABOARD THE STATION.
AND THEIR FAMILIES ARE THERE, STORMY!
13
LOOKS LIKE THIS BORING CRUISE HAS TURNED INTO A RESCUE MISSION!
SQEEBLE!

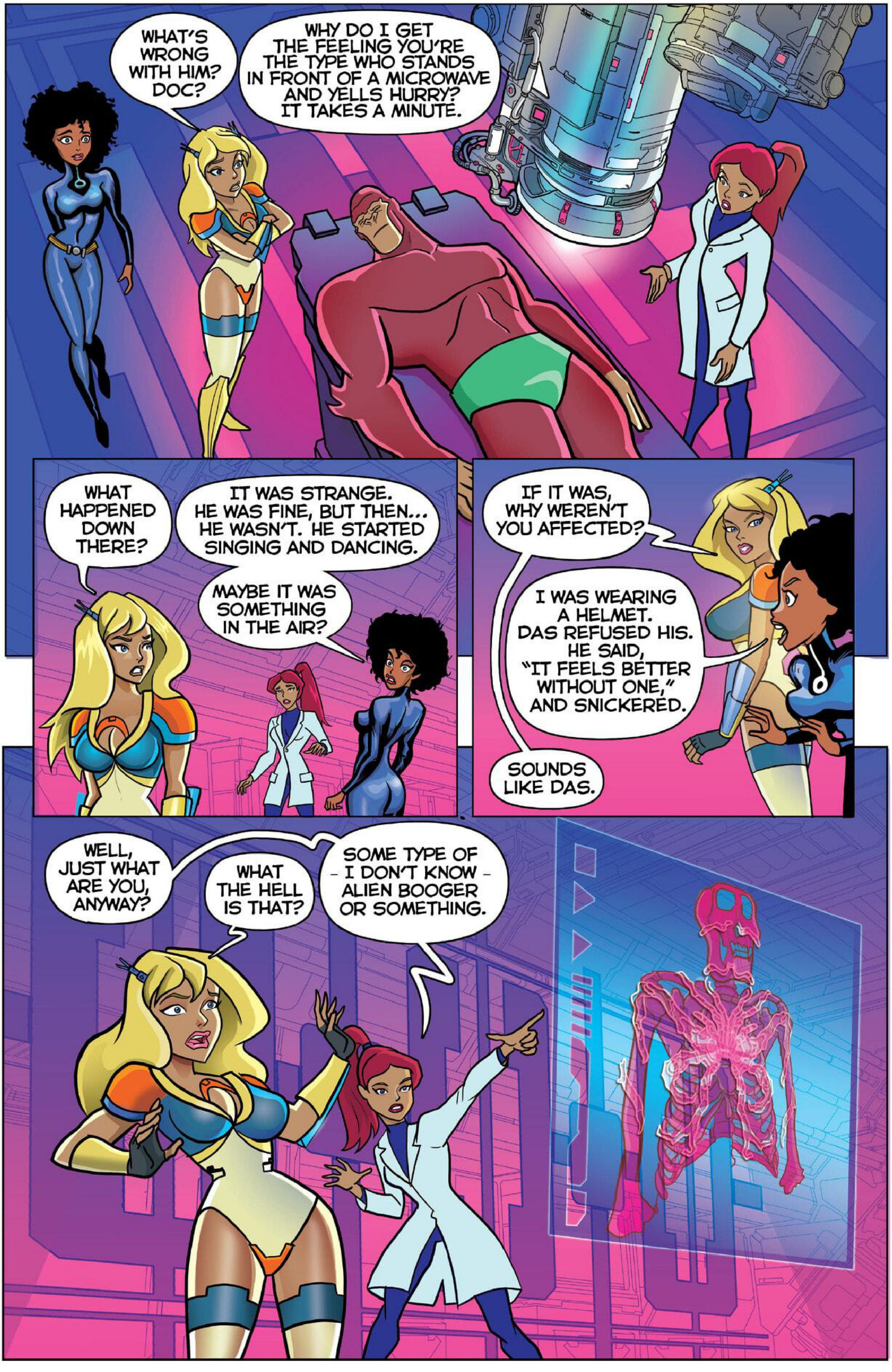

OUTPOST THIRTEEN: THE EDGE OF THE FRONTIER
JESUS! FREAKIN' HOT! SOMEONE LEFT THE HEATER ON OR –
HUH. NO ONE'S HERE TO MEET US.
CHECKING LIFE-SUPPORT SYSTEMS.
STRANGE.
THE HEAT IS FROM THE COLLAPSING STAR BECAUSE THE SHIELDS ARE AT A QUARTER POWER. ALL LIFE SYSTEMS ARE AT MINIMUM AND RUNNING ON EMERGENCY RESERVES ONLY. NO WONDER THEY DIDN'T ANSWER OUR HAILS.
SHE LOOKS FROZEN. HOW THE HELL...OH! LOOK AT HER NECK. SOMEONE STRANGLED THIS WOMAN.
ACCORDING TO READINGS, SHE DIED OF AUTO-EROTIC ASPHYXIATION BEFORE SHE FROZE SOLID

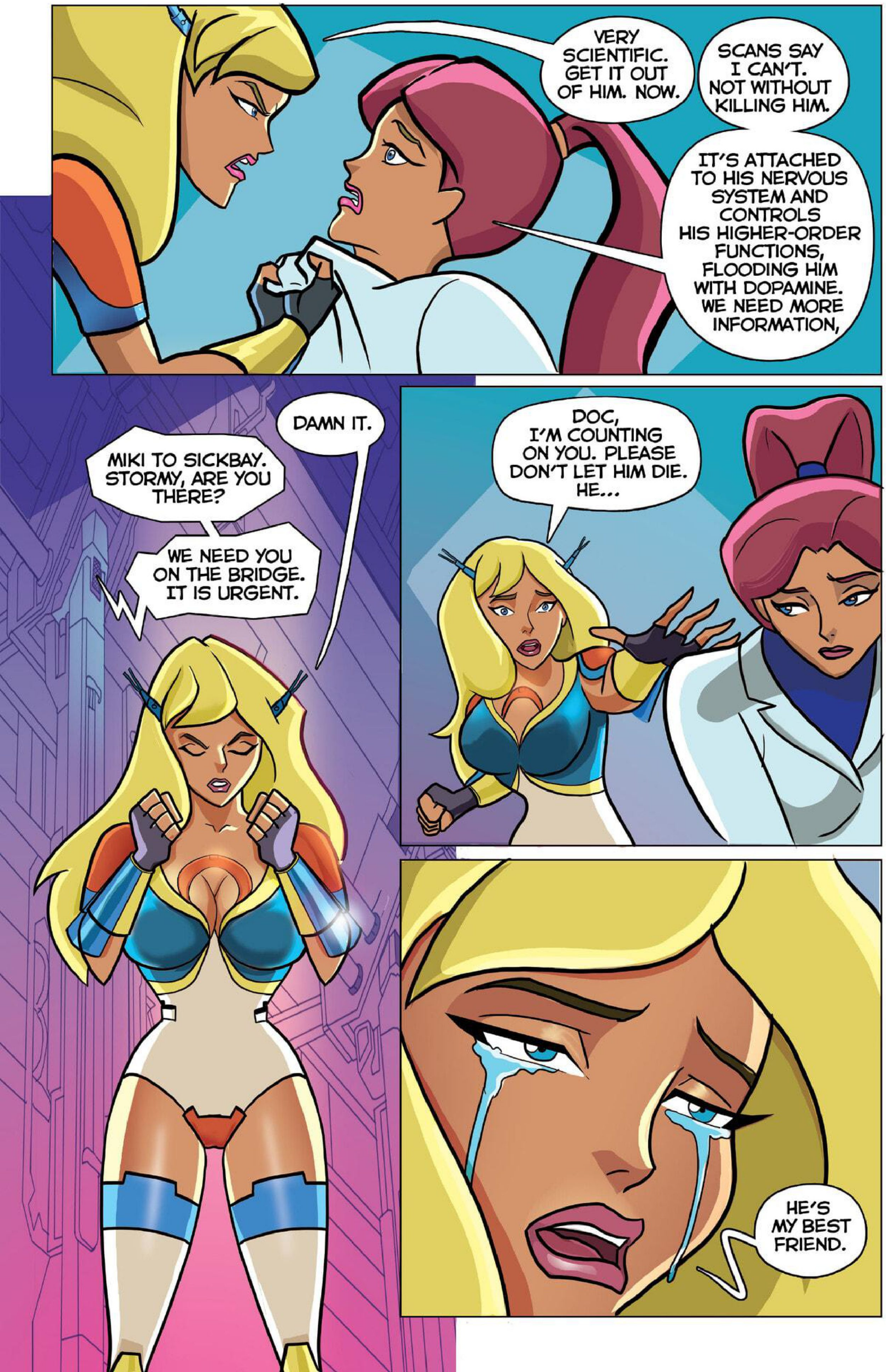
THE BAD PRESIDENT
U.R.E. HELIX

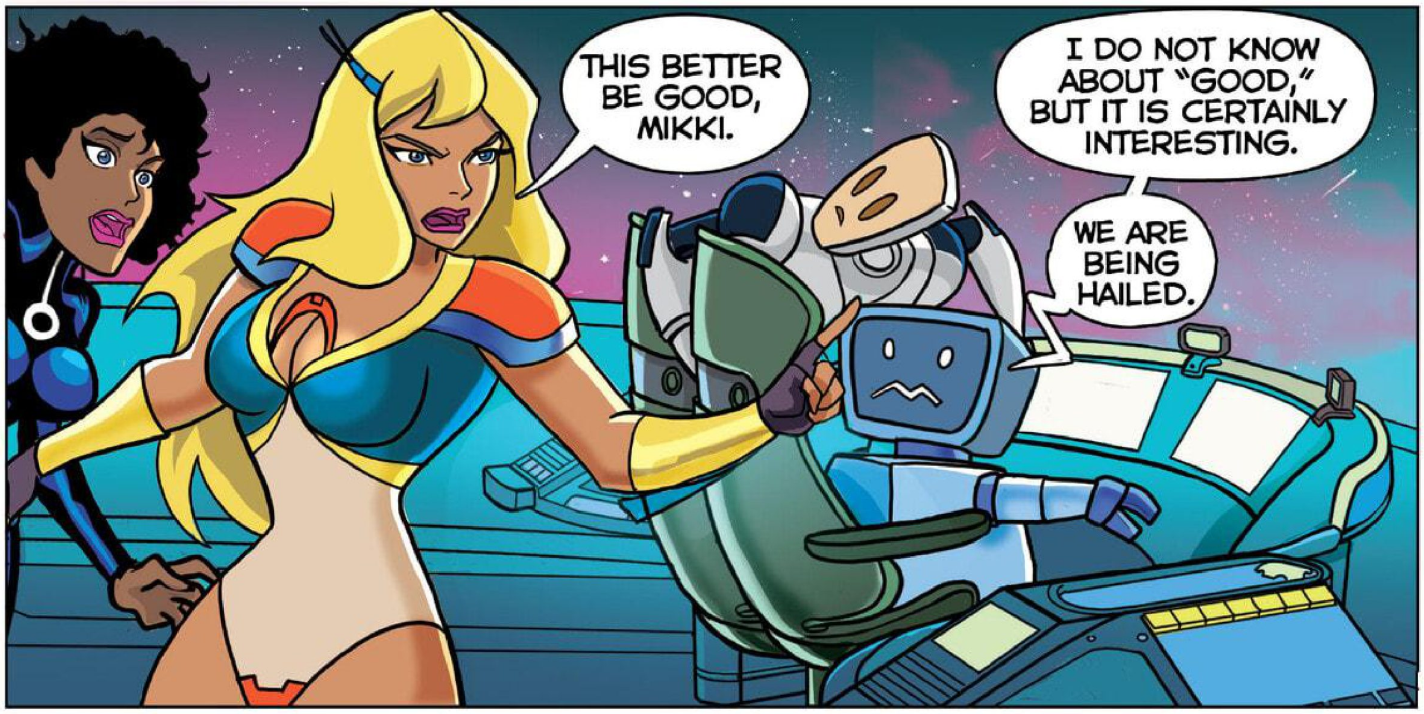

KINKY.
LOOK OVER HERE!
WELL, HE'S…UH… ERECT.
PARDON?
FROZEN.
HE'S FROZEN THERE LIKE HE JUST DON'T CARE.
POETIC. AND TACKY. I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE REST OF THE CREW? AND WHAT ABOUT FOX -
AAHH! WHAT THE HECK?
RUMMMMMBLE!
OUR ORBIT AROUND THE COLLAPSING STAR IS DETERIORATING. IN A FEW HOURS, THIS STATION WILL BE PULLED INTO IT UNLESS WE MOVE TO A SAFE DISTANCE AWAY.

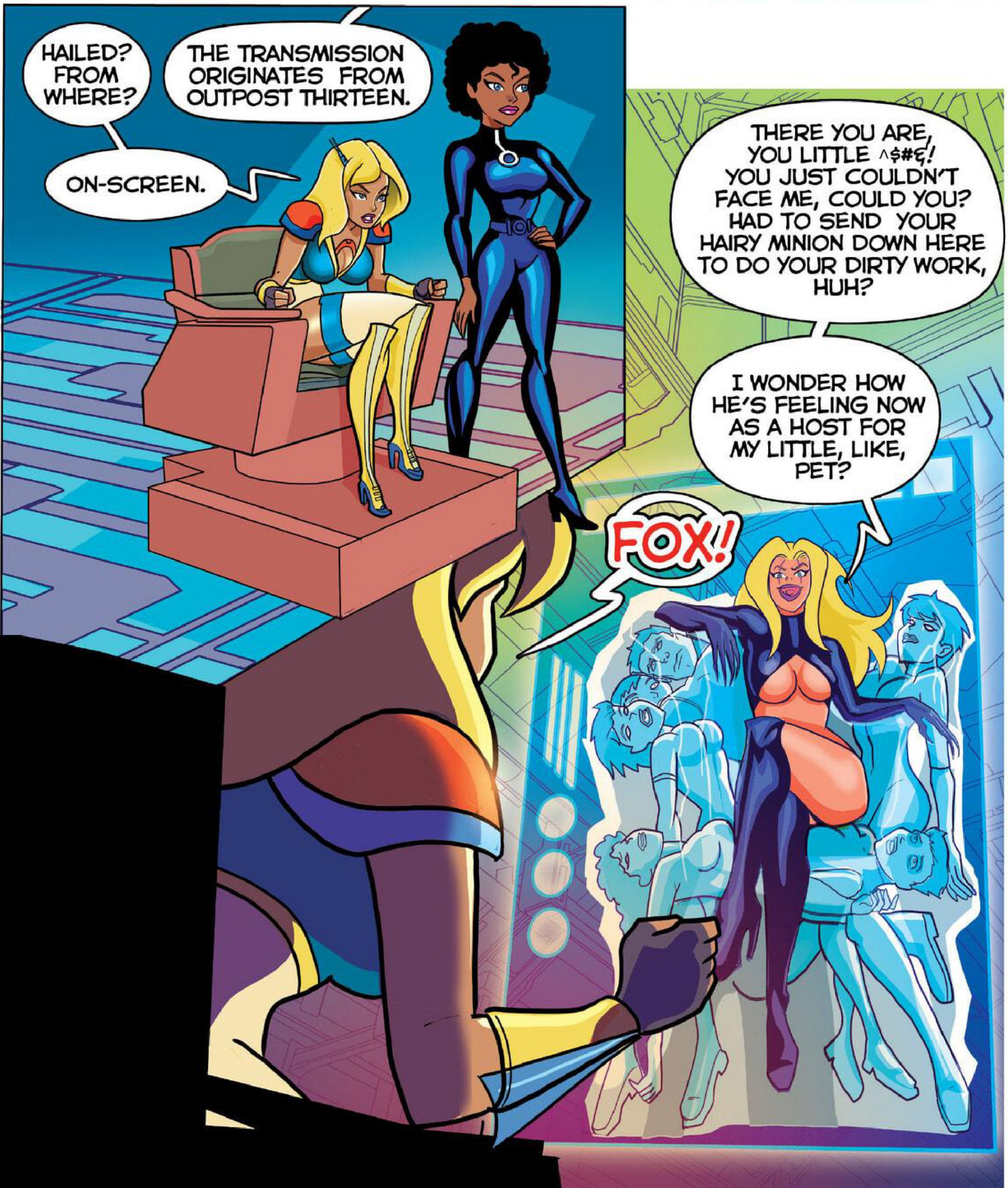

BETTER CHECK ENGINEERING. IT'S THROUGH THAT DOOR. I'LL LET THE HELIX KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
RIGHT. SEEYA SOON.
CAPTAIN GRANT TO THE HELIX. STORMY, DO YOU READ ME?
WHAT THE HELL TOOK SO LONG, ALEA?
DID YOU SHOOT LAHREN FOX YET? I WANNA SEE THE BODY.
NO SIGN OF HER. SORRY TO BURST YOUR BUBBLE.
DAMN IT! WHAT ABOUT THE SCIENTISTS AND THEIR FAMILIES?
WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY OF THE FAMILIES YET, JUST A FEW OF THE CREW. DAS –
AAAAHHH!
WHAT'S HAPPENING? ALEA?
NOT NOW! DAS MAY BE IN TROUBLE!
STORMY DON'T YOU TURN ME OFF, YOU –
BLEPT!
DAS? DAS, ARE YOU OKAY?
ENGINEERING


AAAAH! DON'T SNEAK UP ON ME LIKE THAT!
I'M FINE. WHY?
WHY DID YOU SCREAM?
SORRY. I WAS STARTLED. THE ENGINEER WAS AT HIS POST, BUT HE WAS FROZEN, TOO.
THEY'RE ALL DEAD. EVERYWHERE I CHECKED IT WAS THE SAME. ONE MAN WAS TAKING A SHOWER FULLY CLOTHED.
WHY DID YOU CHECK THE SHOWER?
MIGHT'VE GOTTEN LUCKY. HEH. HA. HAHAHA!
NOW EVERYBODY THROW YOUR HANDS IN THE AIR AND WAVE 'EM LIKE YOU JUST DON'T CARE!
EVERYBODY LET ME HEAR YOU SAY, "OH, YEAH YER!"
UNGH...

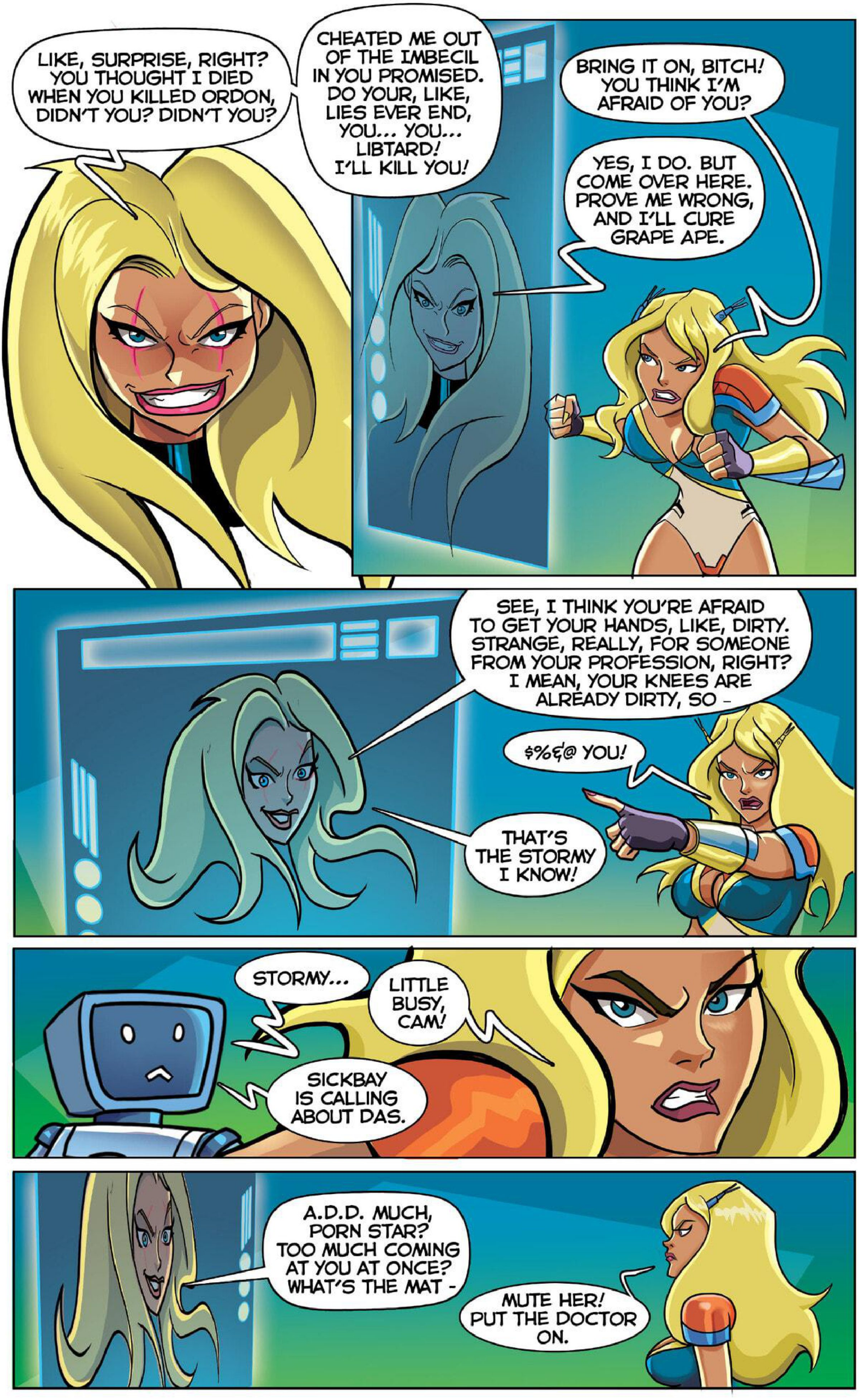

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM? DOC?
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING YOU'RE THE TYPE WHO STANDS IN FRONT OF A MICROWAVE AND YELLS HURRY? IT TAKES A MINUTE.
WHAT HAPPENED DOWN THERE?
IT WAS STRANGE. HE WAS FINE, BUT THEN... HE WASN'T. HE STARTED SINGING AND DANCING.
MAYBE IT WAS SOMETHING IN THE AIR?
IF IT WAS, WHY WEREN'T YOU AFFECTED?
I WAS WEARING A HELMET. DAS REFUSED HIS. HE SAID, "IT FEELS BETTER WITHOUT ONE," AND SNICKERED.
SOUNDS LIKE DAS.
WELL, JUST WHAT ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?
SOME TYPE OF - I DON'T KNOW - ALIEN BOOGER OR SOMETHING.

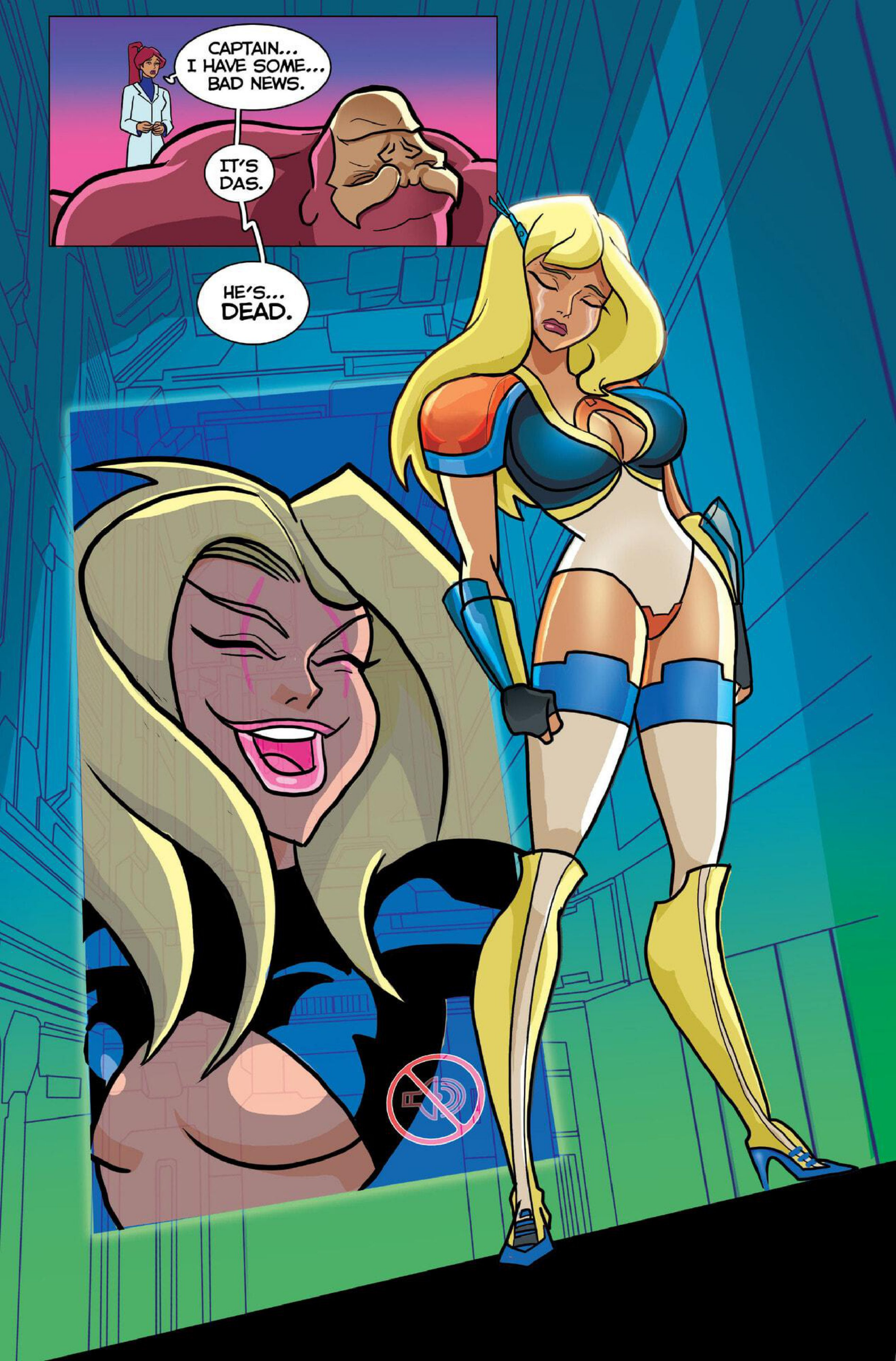

VERY SCIENTIFIC. GET IT OUT OF HIM. NOW.
SCANS SAY I CAN'T. NOT WITHOUT KILLING HIM.
IT'S ATTACHED TO HIS NERVOUS SYSTEM AND CONTROLS HIS HIGHER-ORDER FUNCTIONS, FLOODING HIM WITH DOPAMINE. WE NEED MORE INFORMATION,
MIKI TO SICKBAY. STORMY, ARE YOU THERE?
WE NEED YOU ON THE BRIDGE. IT IS URGENT.
DAMN IT.
DOC, I'M COUNTING ON YOU. PLEASE DON'T LET HIM DIE. HE...
HE'S MY BEST FRIEND.

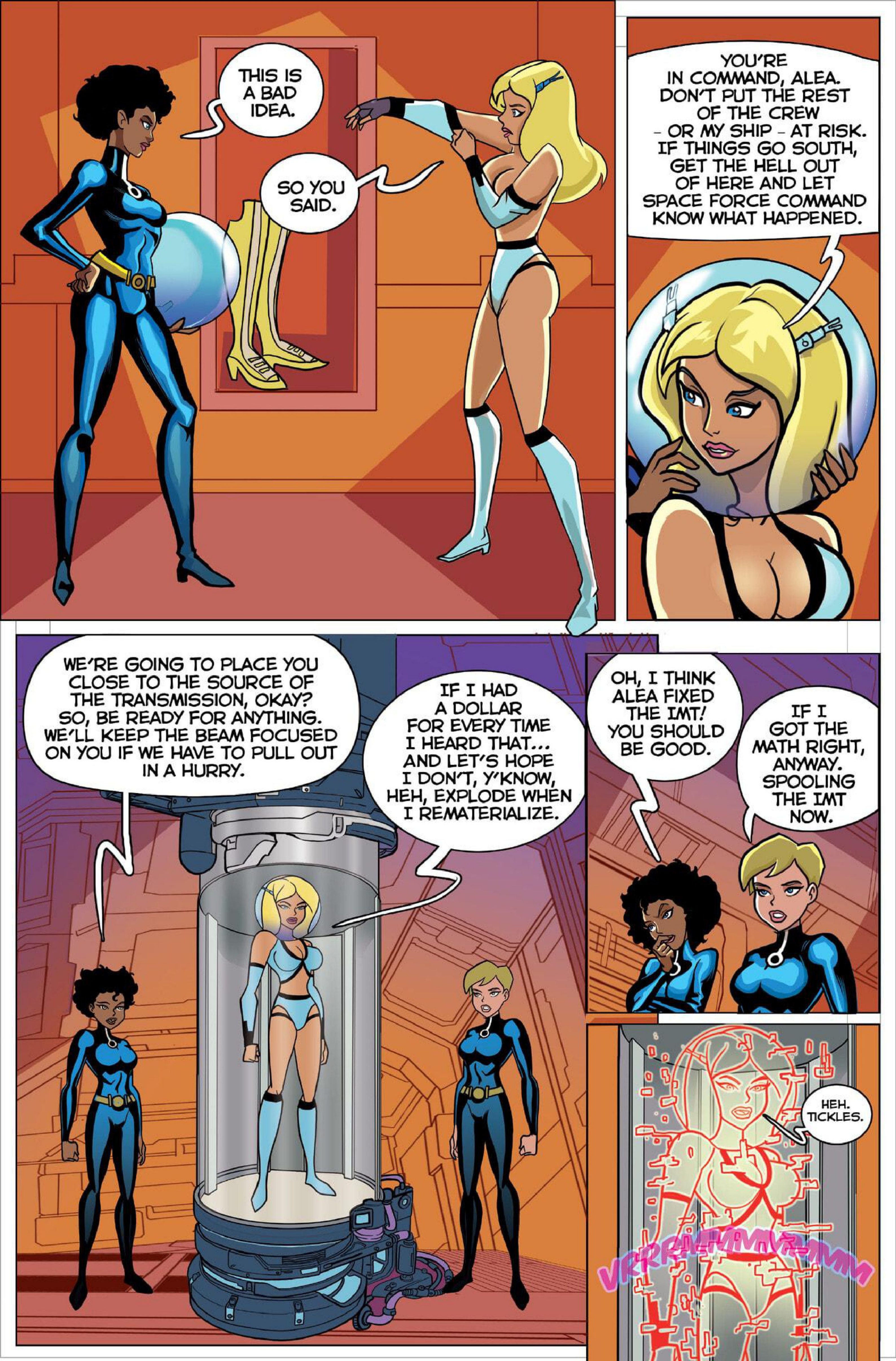

THIS BETTER BE GOOD, MIKKI.
I DO NOT KNOW ABOUT "GOOD," BUT IT IS CERTAINLY INTERESTING.
WE ARE BEING HAILED.

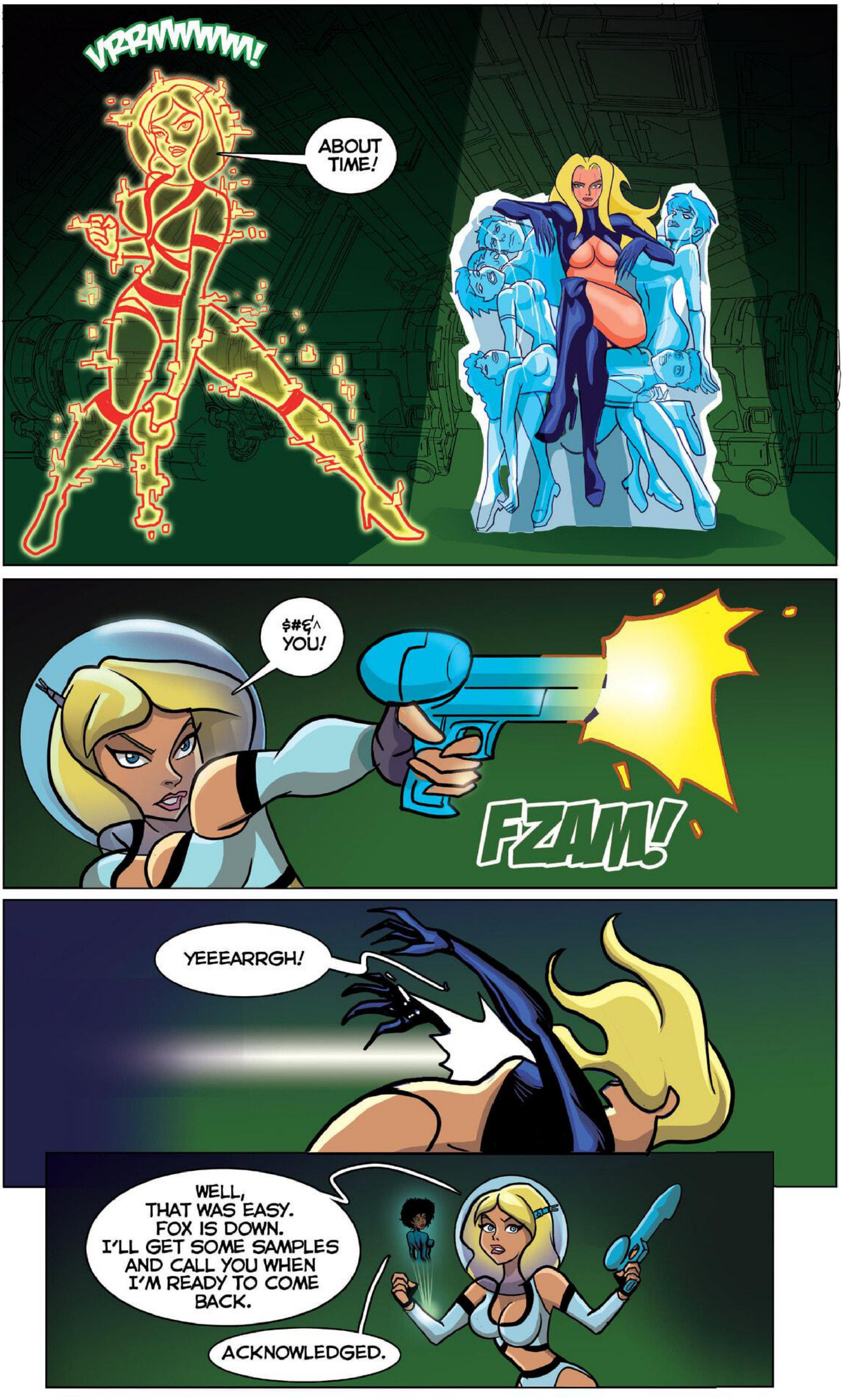

HAILED? FROM WHERE?
THE TRANSMISSION ORIGINATES FROM OUTPOST THIRTEEN.
ON-SCREEN.
THERE YOU ARE, YOU LITTLE ^$#ξ! YOU JUST COULDN'T FACE ME, COULD YOU? HAD TO SEND YOUR HAIRY MINION DOWN HERE TO DO YOUR DIRTY WORK, HUH?
I WONDER HOW HE'S FEELING NOW AS A HOST FOR MY LITTLE, LIKE, PET?
FOX!

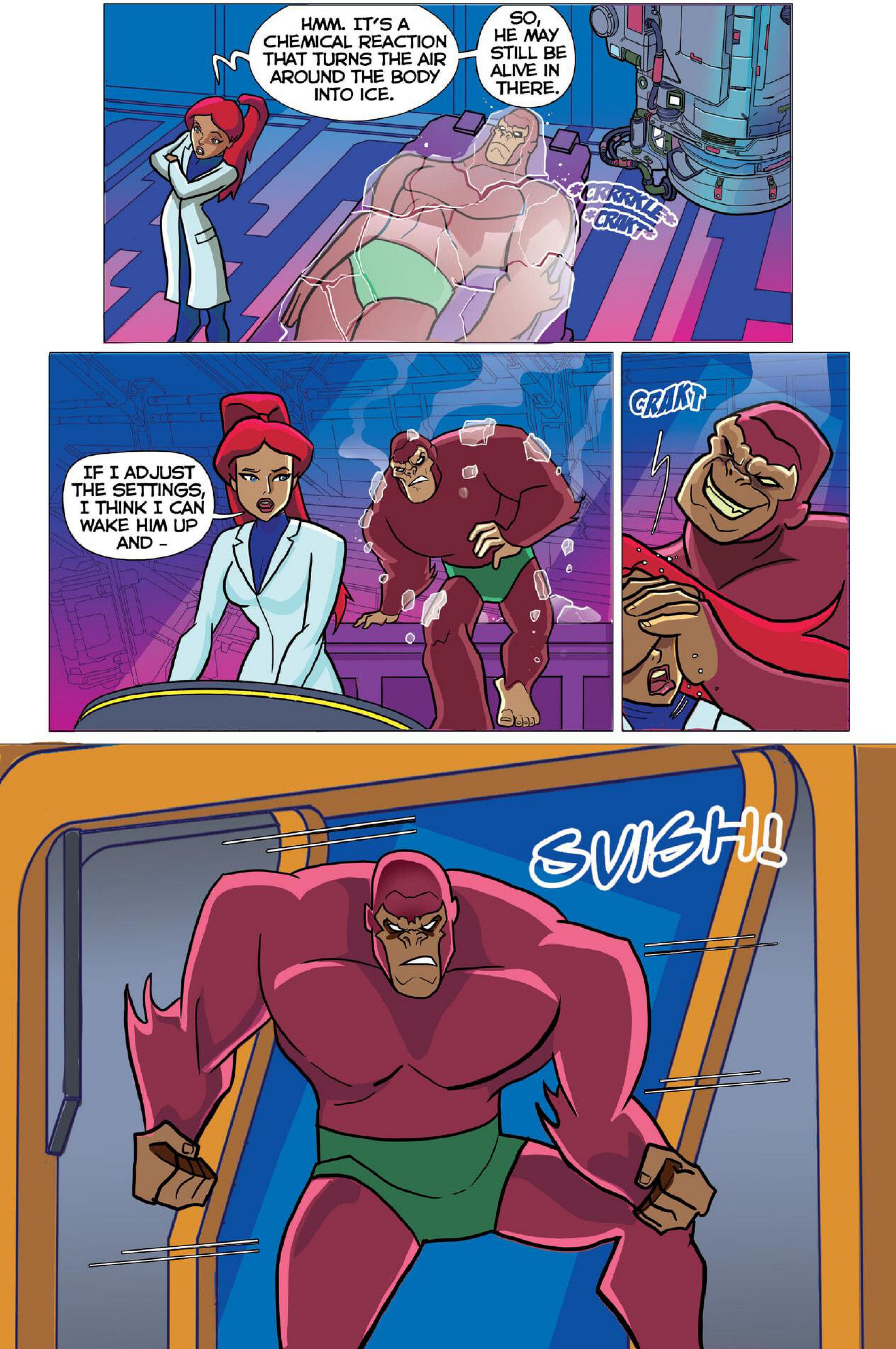
[redacted]

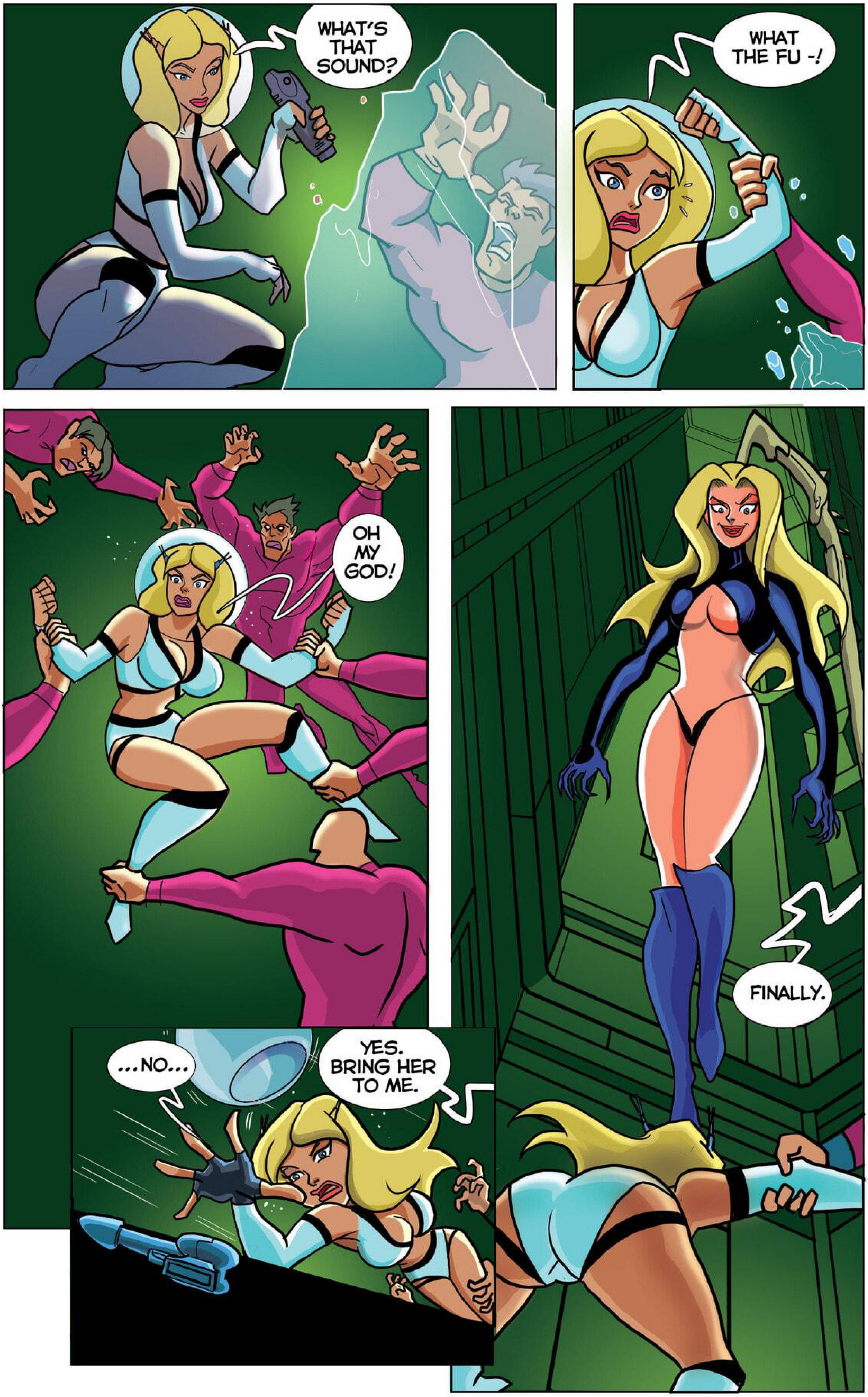

LIKE, SURPRISE, RIGHT? YOU THOUGHT I DIED WHEN YOU KILLED ORDON, DIDN'T YOU? DIDN'T YOU?
CHEATED ME OUT OF THE IMBECIL IN YOU PROMISED. DO YOUR, LIKE, LIES EVER END, YOU... YOU... LIBTARD! I'LL KILL YOU!
BRING IT ON, BITCH! YOU THINK I'M AFRAID OF YOU?
YES, I DO. BUT COME OVER HERE. PROVE ME WRONG, AND I'LL CURE GRAPE APE.
SEE, I THINK YOU'RE AFRAID TO GET YOUR HANDS, LIKE, DIRTY. STRANGE, REALLY, FOR SOMEONE FROM YOUR PROFESSION, RIGHT? I MEAN, YOUR KNEES ARE ALREADY DIRTY, SO –
$%&@ YOU!
THAT'S THE STORMY I KNOW!
STORMY...
LITTLE BUSY, CAM!
SICKBAY IS CALLING ABOUT DAS.
A.D.D. MUCH, PORN STAR? TOO MUCH COMING AT YOU AT ONCE? WHAT'S THE MAT –
MUTE HER! PUT THE DOCTOR ON.

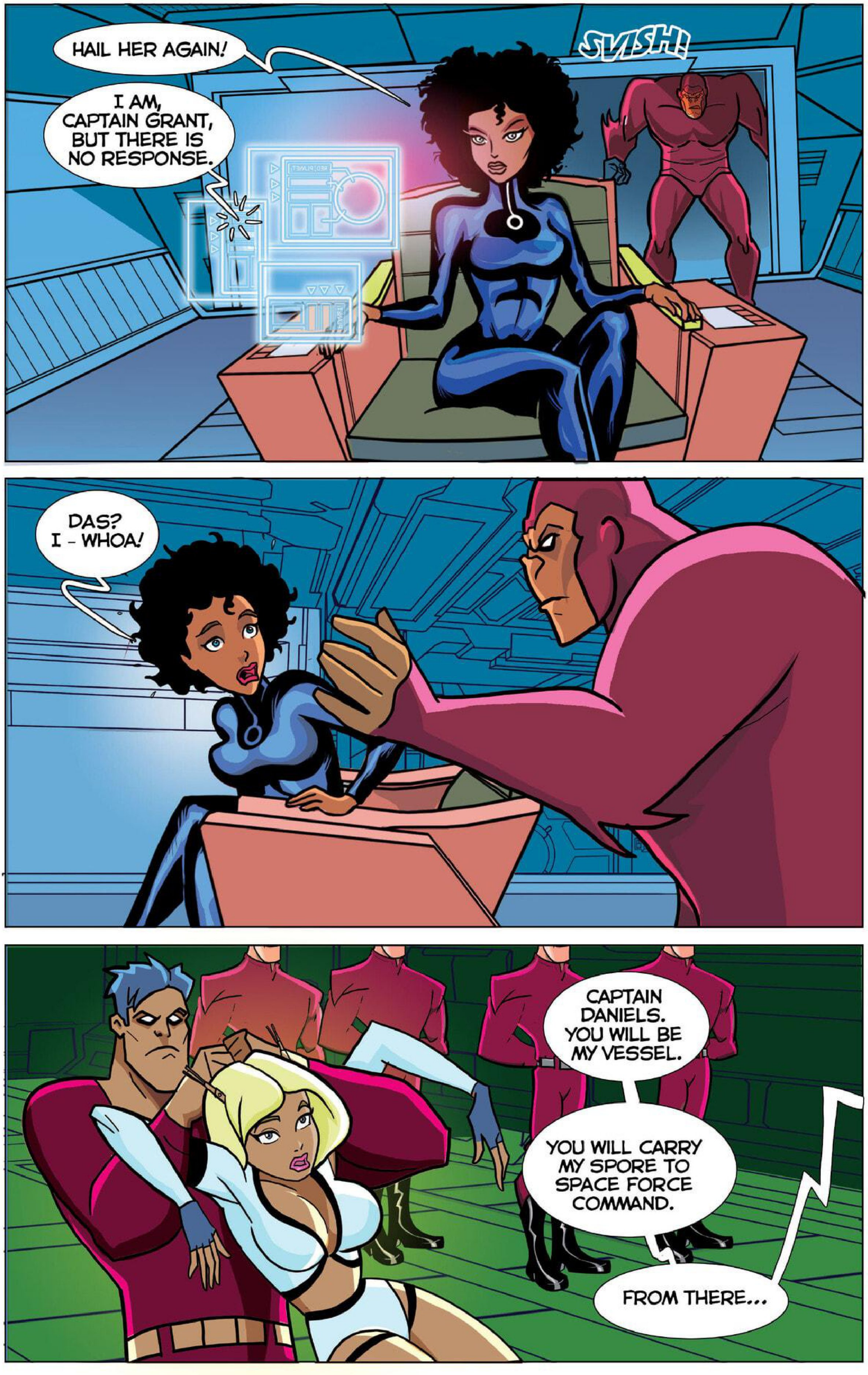

CAPTAIN... I HAVE SOME... BAD NEWS.
IT'S DAS.
HE'S... DEAD.

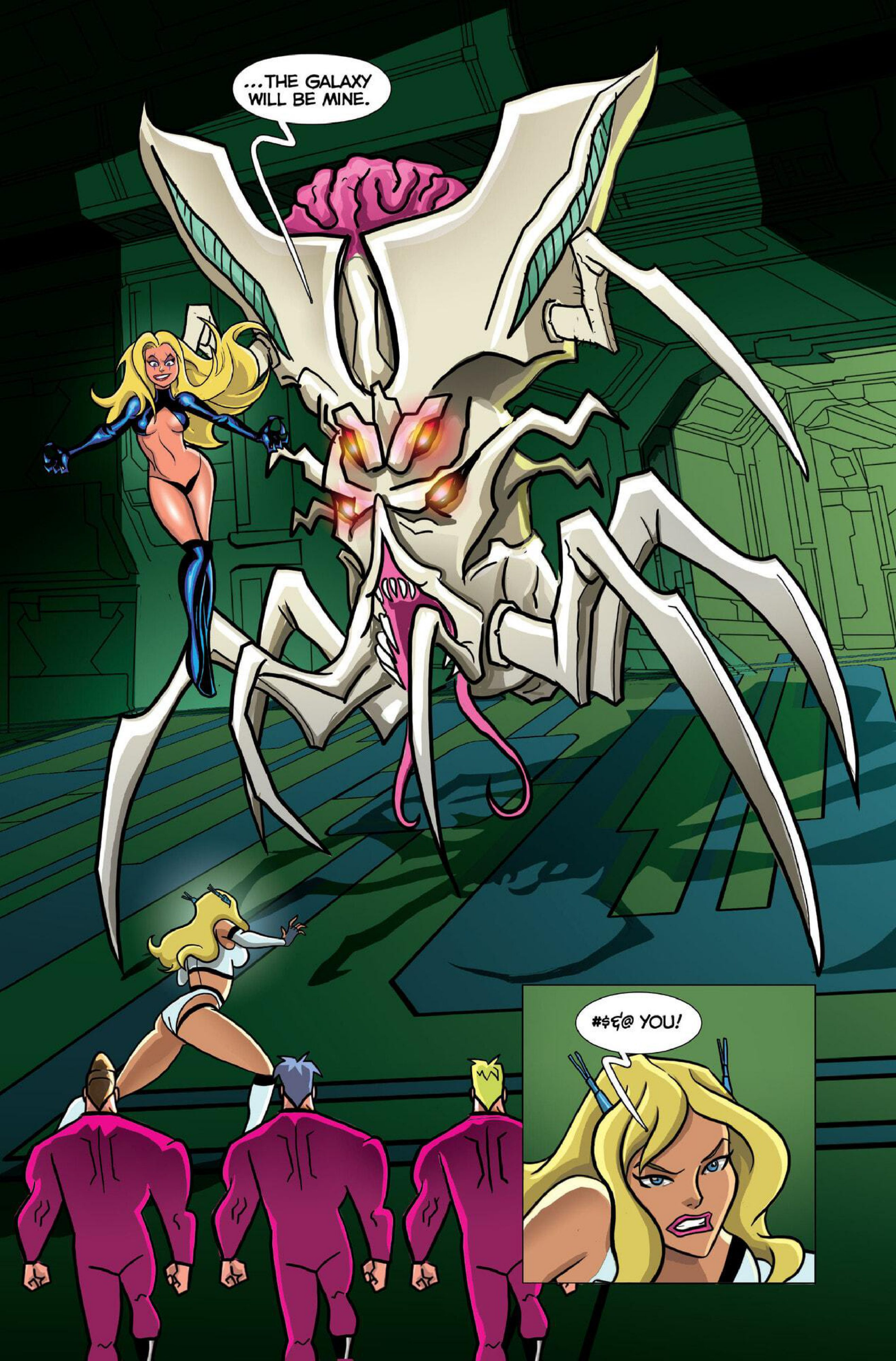

THIS IS A BAD IDEA.
SO YOU SAID.
YOU'RE IN COMMAND, ALEA. DON'T PUT THE REST OF THE CREW – OR MY SHIP – AT RISK. IF THINGS GO SOUTH, GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE AND LET SPACE FORCE COMMAND KNOW WHAT HAPPENED.
WE'RE GOING TO PLACE YOU CLOSE TO THE SOURCE OF THE TRANSMISSION, OKAY? SO, BE READY FOR ANYTHING. WE'LL KEEP THE BEAM FOCUSED ON YOU IF WE HAVE TO PULL OUT IN A HURRY.
IF I HAD A DOLLAR FOR EVERY TIME I HEARD THAT... AND LET'S HOPE I DON'T, Y'KNOW, HEH, EXPLODE WHEN I REMATERIALIZE.
OH, I THINK ALEA FIXED THE IMT! YOU SHOULD BE GOOD.
IF I GOT THE MATH RIGHT, ANYWAY. SPOOLING THE IMT NOW.
HEH. TICKLES.
VRRRMMMMMMMMMMM

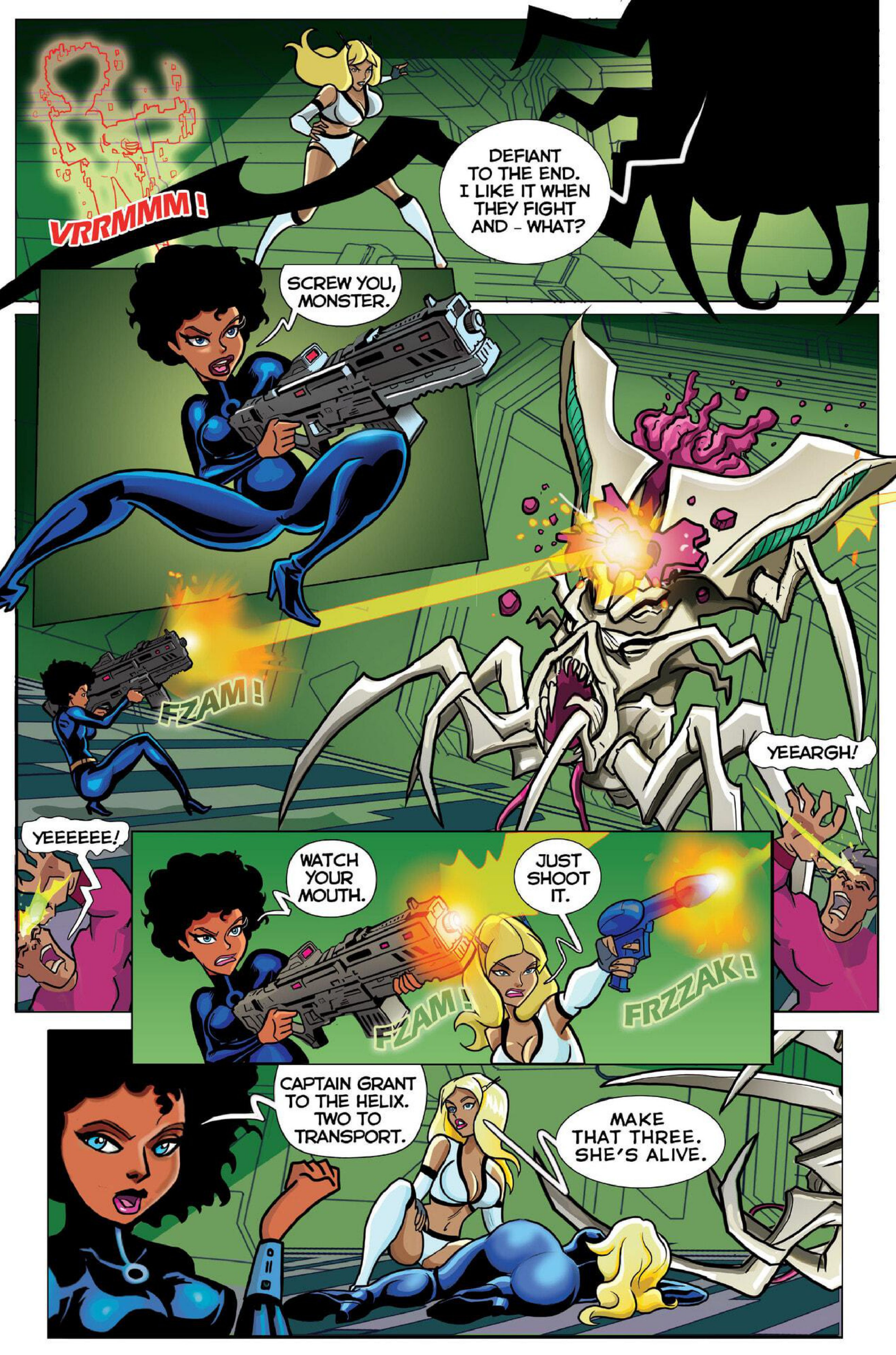

VRRMMMMM!
ABOUT TIME!
$#&'^ YOU!
FZAM!
YEEEARRGH!
WELL, THAT WAS EASY. FOX IS DOWN. I'LL GET SOME SAMPLES AND CALL YOU WHEN I'M READY TO COME BACK.
ACKNOWLEDGED.

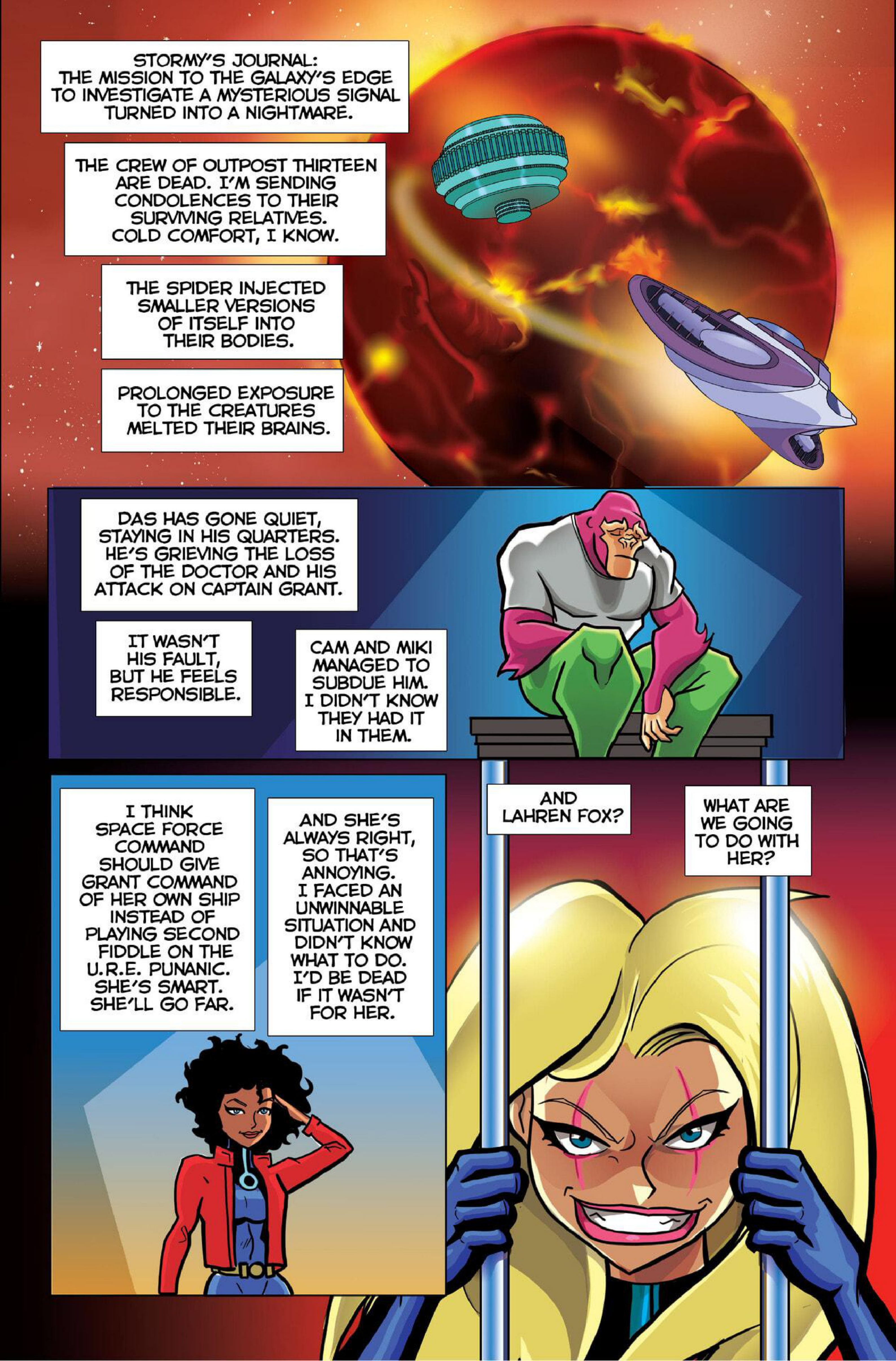

HMM. IT'S A CHEMICAL REACTION THAT TURNS THE AIR AROUND THE BODY INTO ICE.
SO, HE MAY STILL BE ALIVE IN THERE.
CRRRKLE
CRAKT
IF I ADJUST THE SETTINGS, I THINK I CAN WAKE HIM UP AND –
CRAKT
SVISH!


WHAT'S THAT SOUND?
WHAT THE FU -!
OH MY GOD!
...NO...
YES. BRING HER TO ME.
FINALLY.

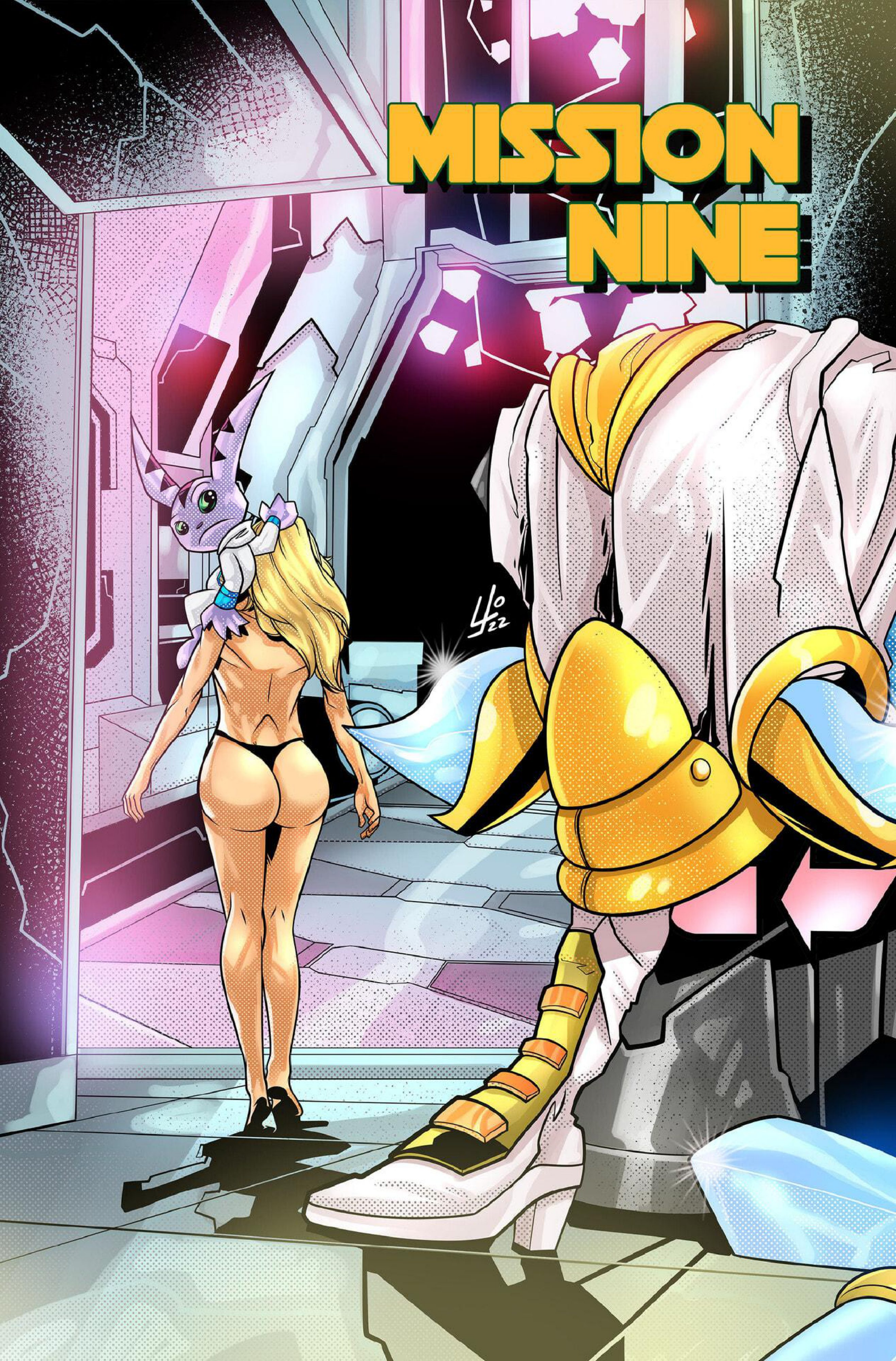

HAIL HER AGAIN!
SVISH!
I AM, CAPTAIN GRANT, BUT THERE IS NO RESPONSE.
DAS? I - WHOA!
CAPTAIN DANIELS. YOU WILL BE MY VESSEL.
YOU WILL CARRY MY SPORE TO SPACE FORCE COMMAND.
FROM THERE...

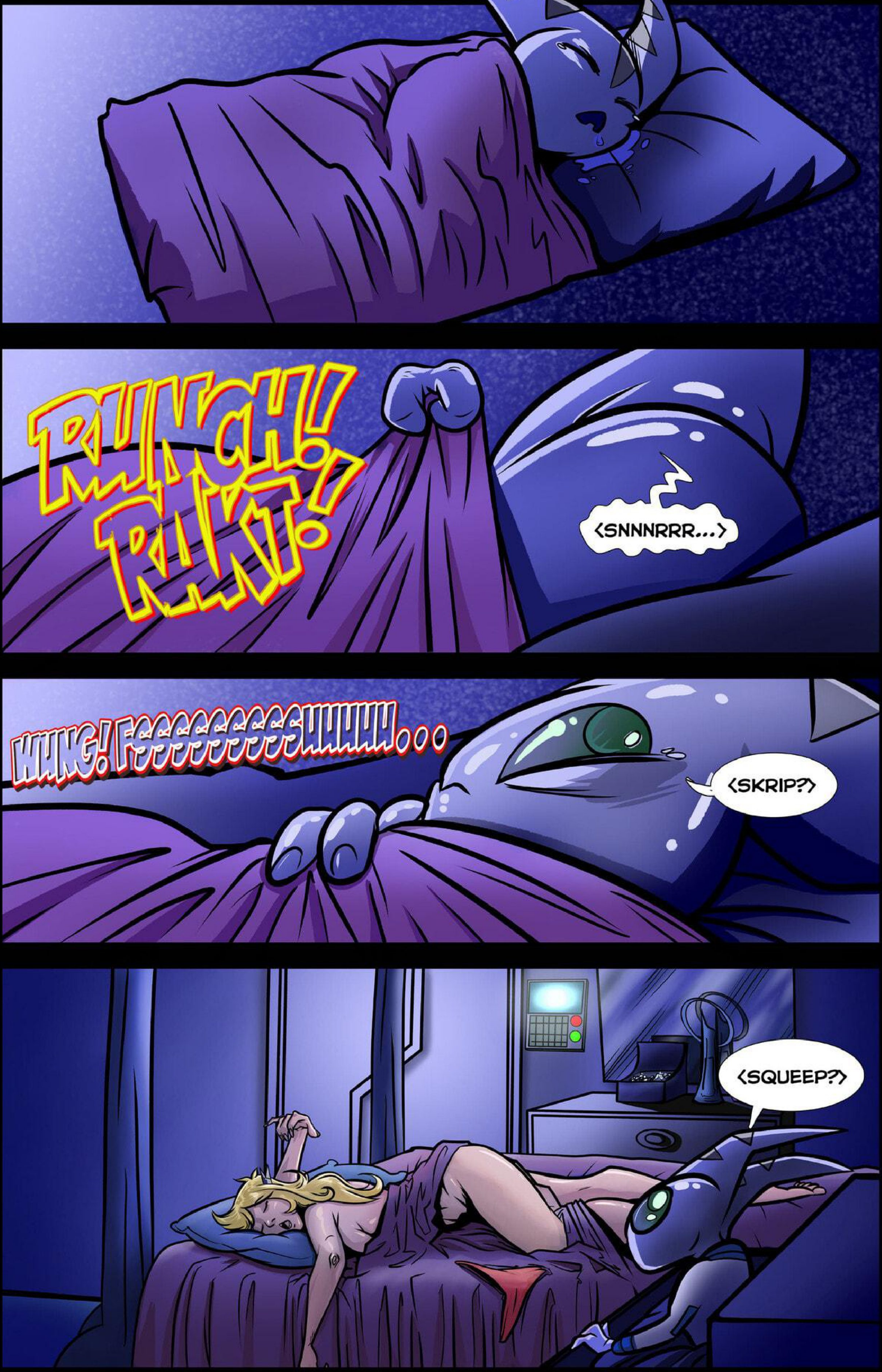

...THE GALAXY WILL BE MINE.
#$&@ YOU!

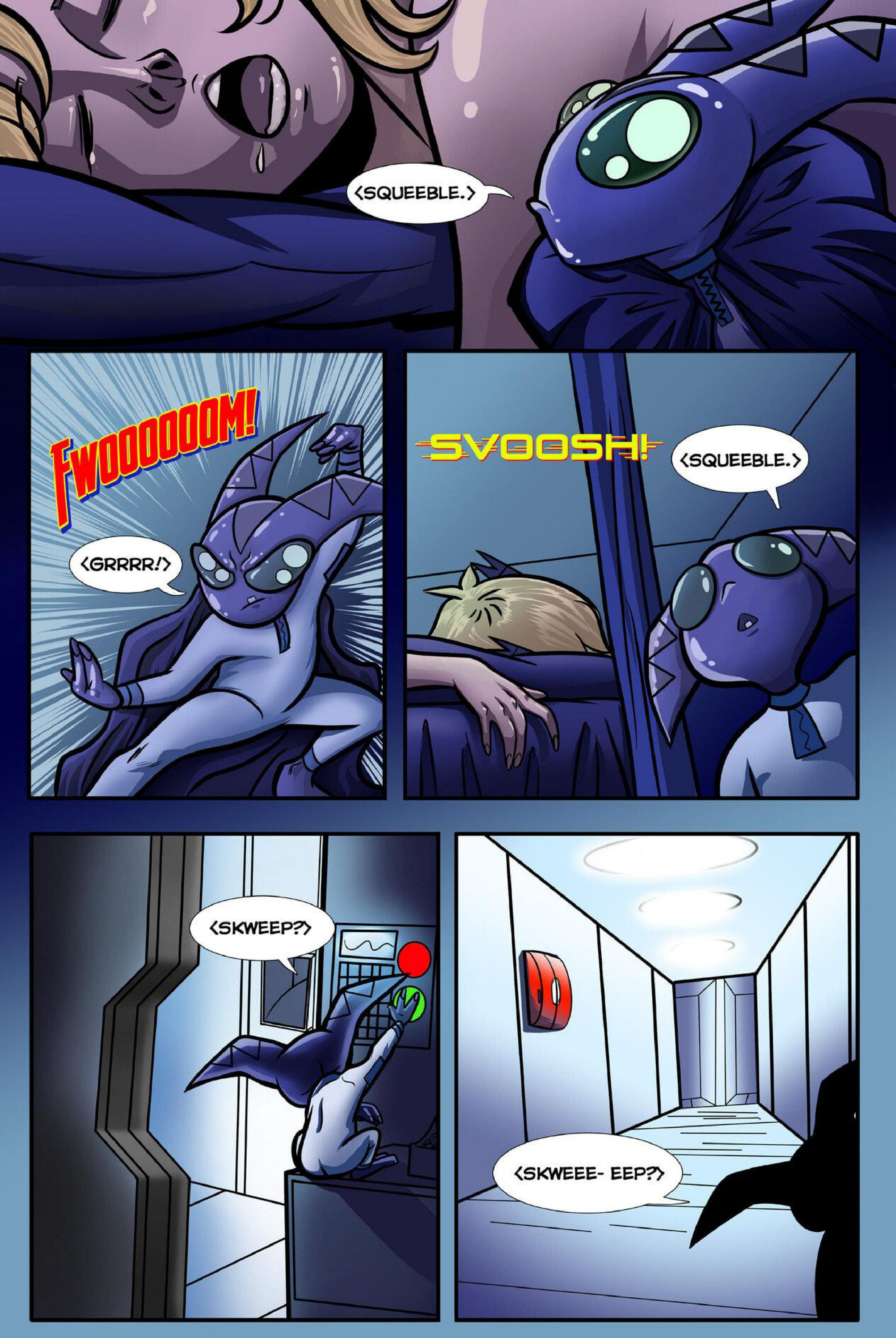

VRRMMM!
DEFIANT TO THE END. I LIKE IT WHEN THEY FIGHT AND - WHAT?
SCREW YOU, MONSTER.
FZAM!
YEEARGH!
YEEEEEE!
WATCH YOUR MOUTH.
JUST SHOOT IT.
FZAM!
FRZZAK!
CAPTAIN GRANT TO THE HELIX. TWO TO TRANSPORT.
MAKE THAT THREE. SHE'S ALIVE.

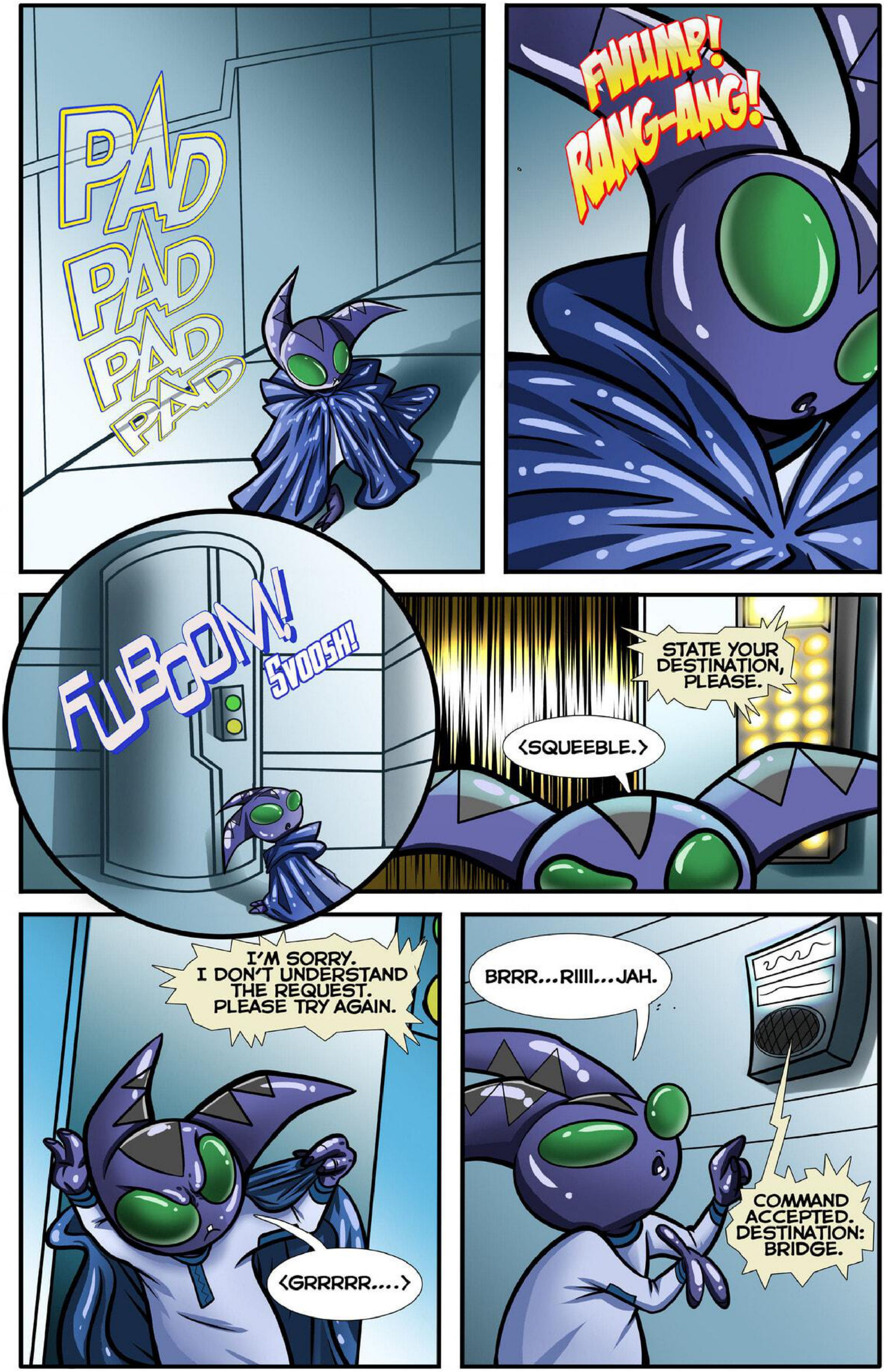

STORMY'S JOURNAL:
THE MISSION TO THE GALAXY'S EDGE TO INVESTIGATE A MYSTERIOUS SIGNAL TURNED INTO A NIGHTMARE.
THE CREW OF OUTPOST THIRTEEN ARE DEAD. I'M SENDING CONDOLENCES TO THEIR SURVIVING RELATIVES. COLD COMFORT, I KNOW.
THE SPIDER INJECTED SMALLER VERSIONS OF ITSELF INTO THEIR BODIES.
PROLONGED EXPOSURE TO THE CREATURES MELTED THEIR BRAINS.
DAS HAS GONE QUIET, STAYING IN HIS QUARTERS. HE'S GRIEVING THE LOSS OF THE DOCTOR AND HIS ATTACK ON CAPTAIN GRANT.
IT WASN'T HIS FAULT, BUT HE FEELS RESPONSIBLE.
CAM AND MIKI MANAGED TO SUBDUE HIM. I DIDN'T KNOW THEY HAD IT IN THEM.
I THINK SPACE FORCE COMMAND SHOULD GIVE GRANT COMMAND OF HER OWN SHIP INSTEAD OF PLAYING SECOND FIDDLE ON THE U.R.E. PUNANIC. SHE'S SMART. SHE'LL GO FAR.
AND SHE'S ALWAYS RIGHT, SO THAT'S ANNOYING. I FACED AN UNWINNABLE SITUATION AND DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. I'D BE DEAD IF IT WASN'T FOR HER.
AND LAHREN FOX?
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH HER?

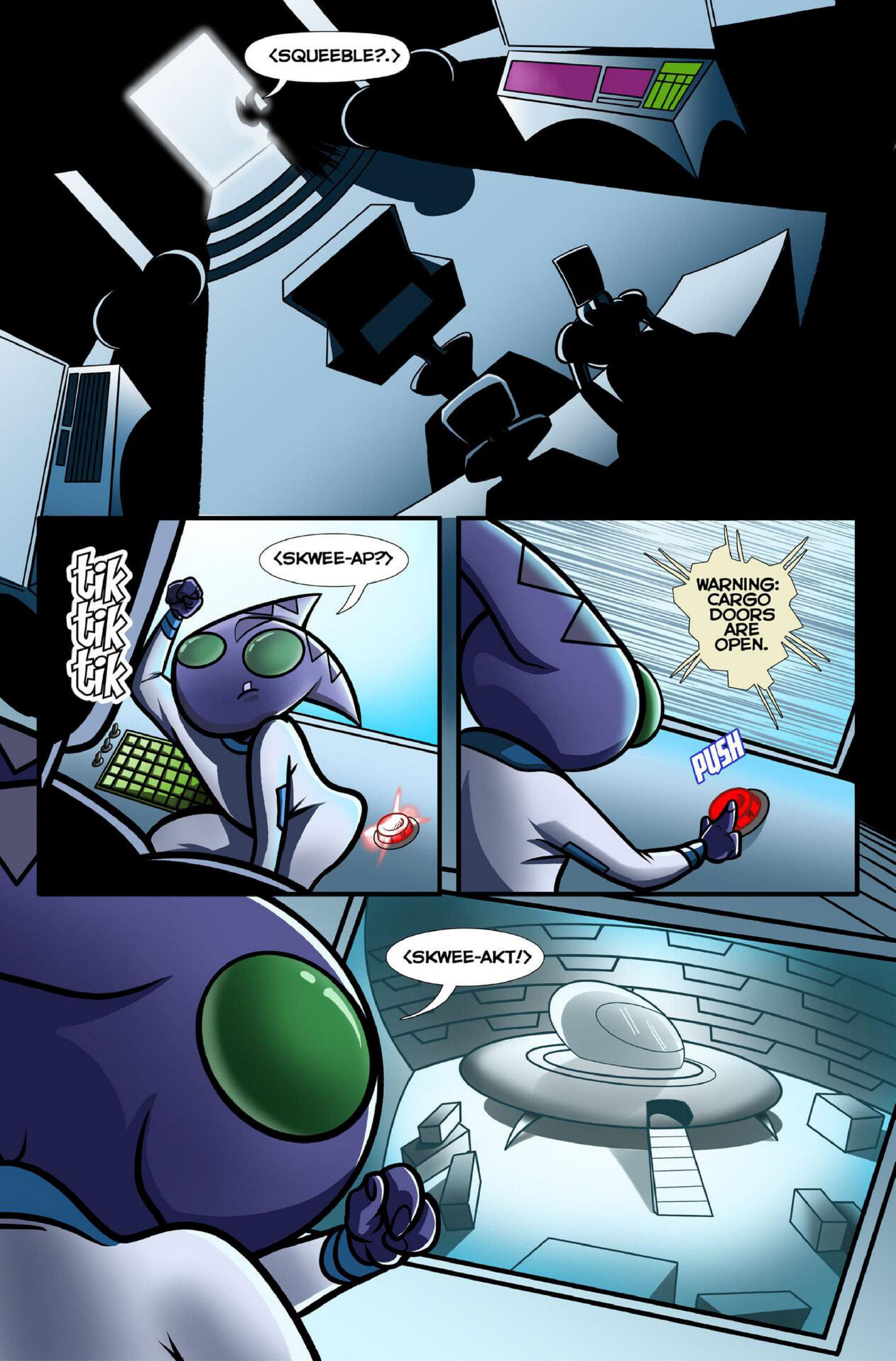
MISSION NINE

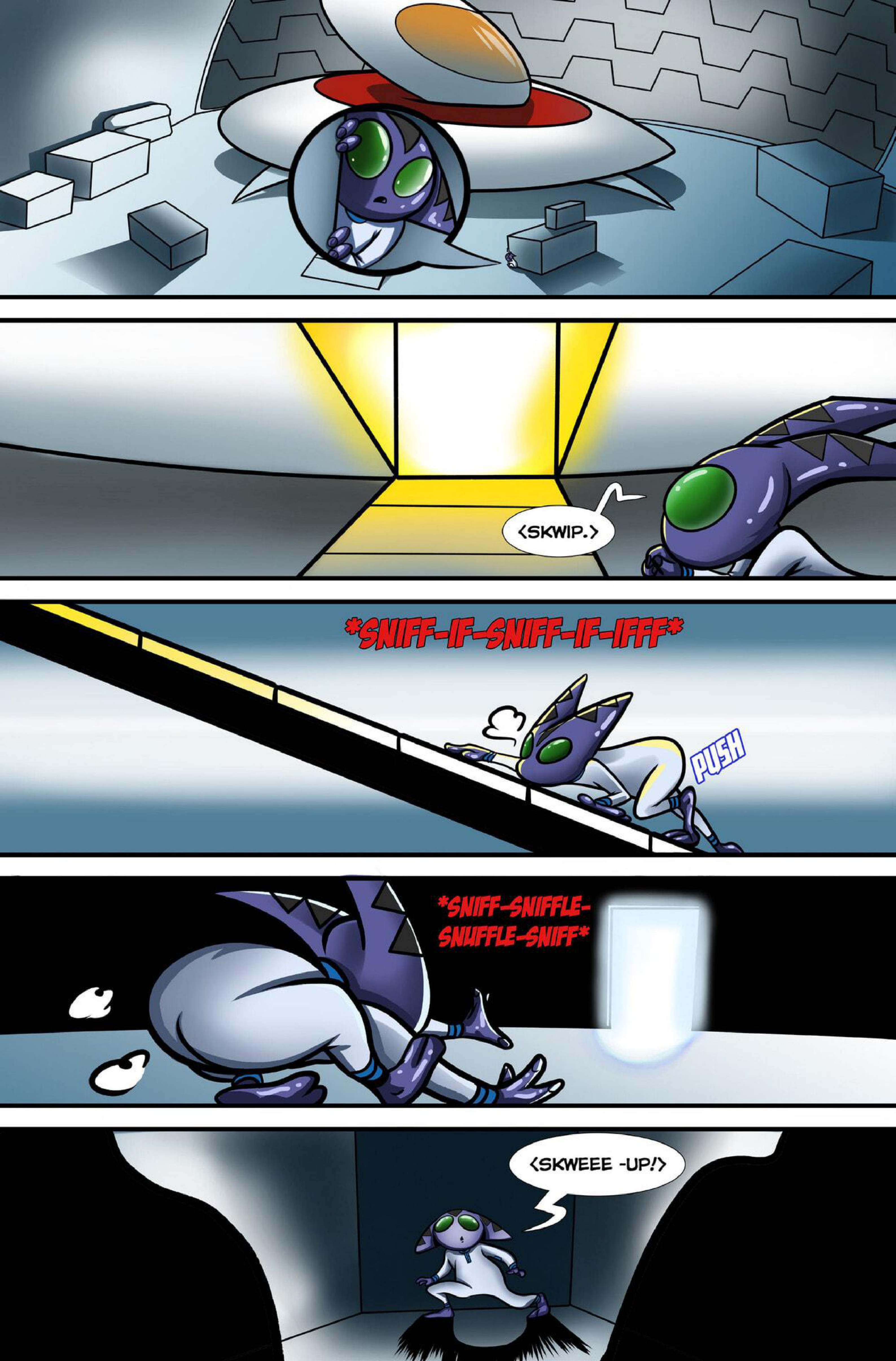


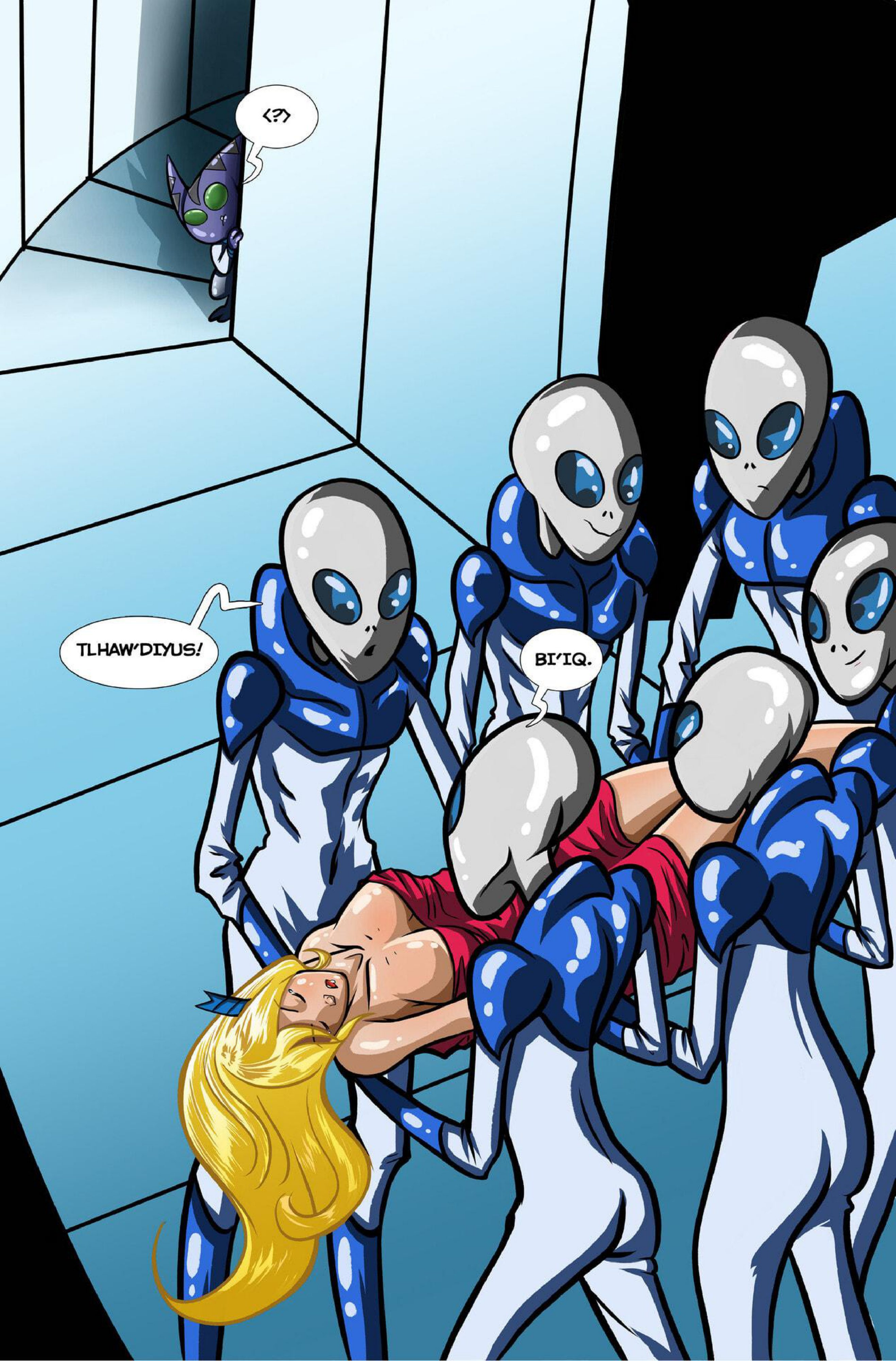

RUNCH! RIKT!
<SNNNRRR...>
WHNG! FSSSSSSSSSHHHHHH...
<SKRIP?>
<SQUEEP?>

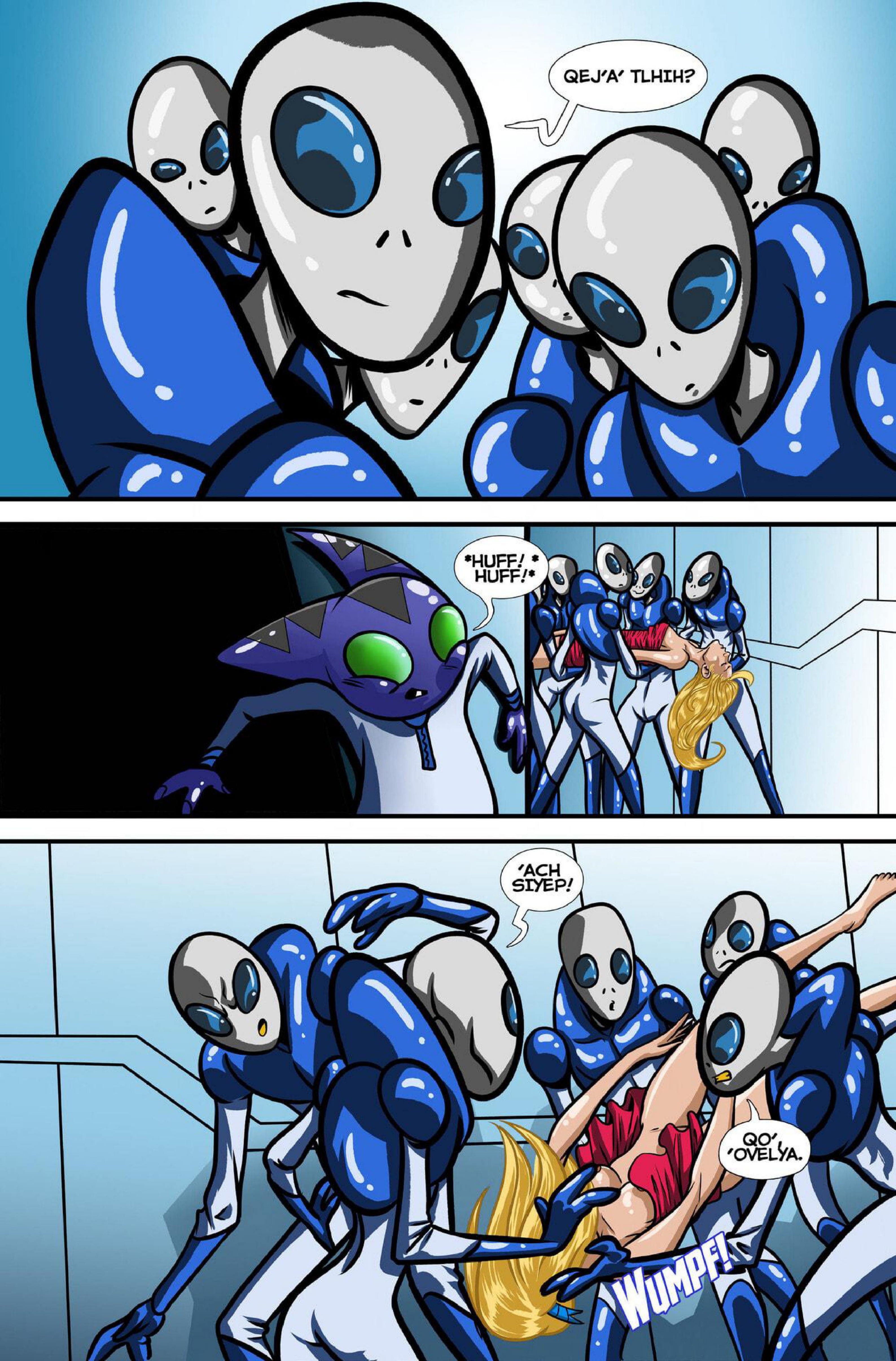

<SQUEEBLE.>
FWOOOOOOM!
<GRRRR!>
SVOOSH!
<SQUEEBLE.>
<SKWEEP?>
<SKWEEE- EEP?>

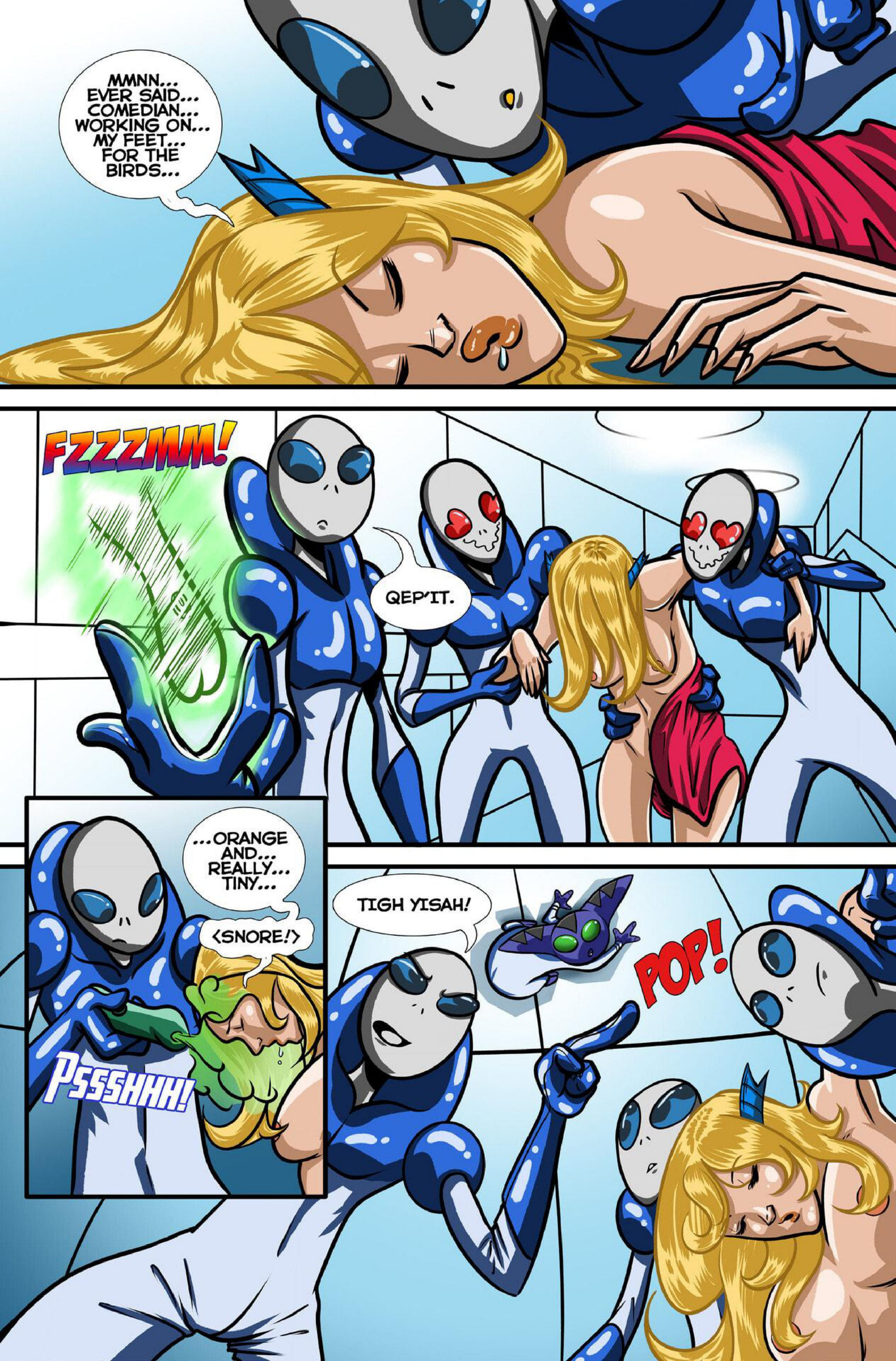

PAD
PAD
PAD
PAD
FWUMP!
RANG-ANG!
FWBOOM!
SVOOSH!
STATE YOUR DESTINATION, PLEASE.
<SQUEEBLE.>
I'M SORRY. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THE REQUEST. PLEASE TRY AGAIN.
<GRRRRR....>
BRRR...RIIII...JAH.
COMMAND ACCEPTED. DESTINATION: BRIDGE.

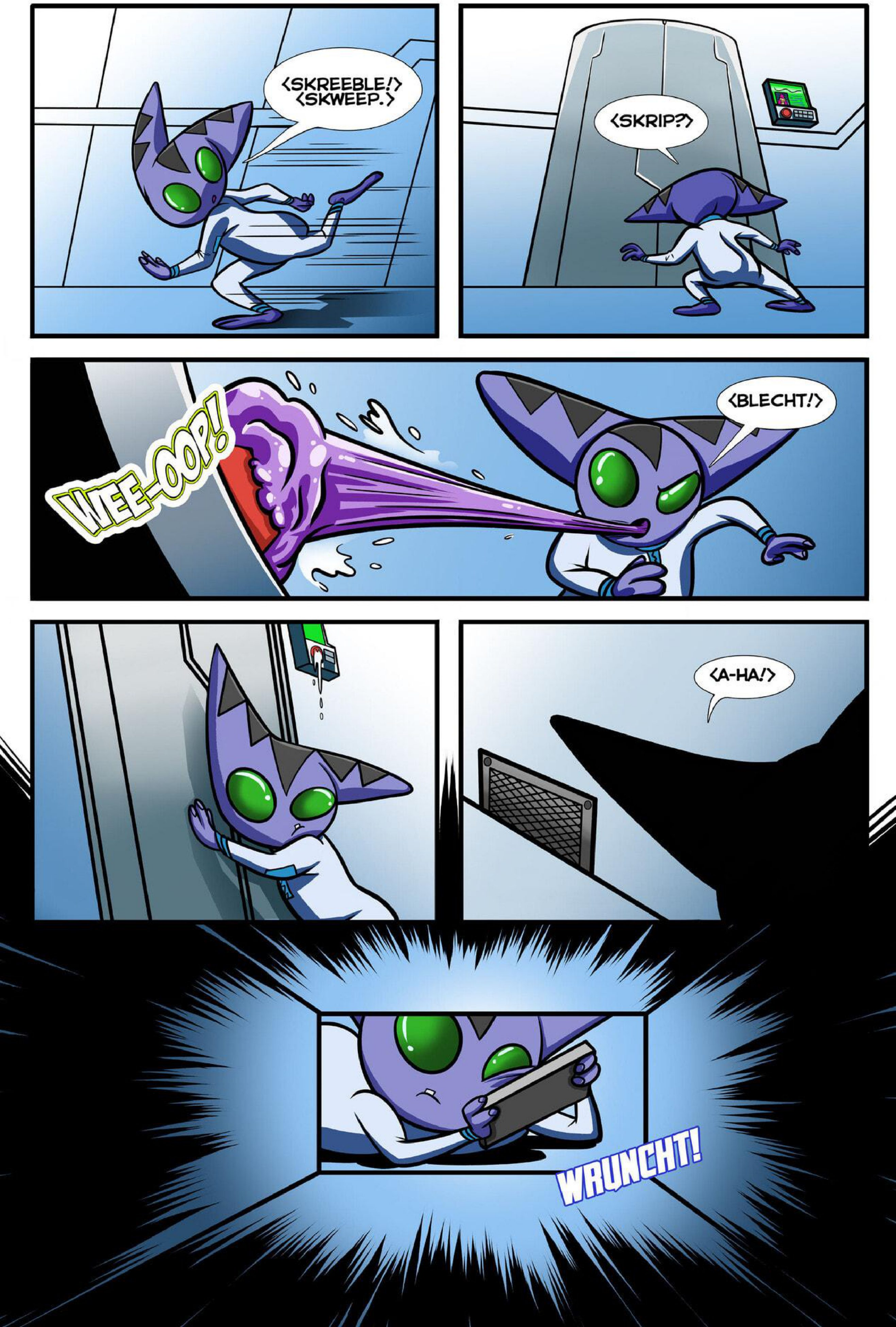

<SQUEEBLE?.>
tik tik tik
<SKWEE-AP?>
WARNING: CARGO DOORS ARE OPEN.
PUSH
<SKWEE-AKT!>

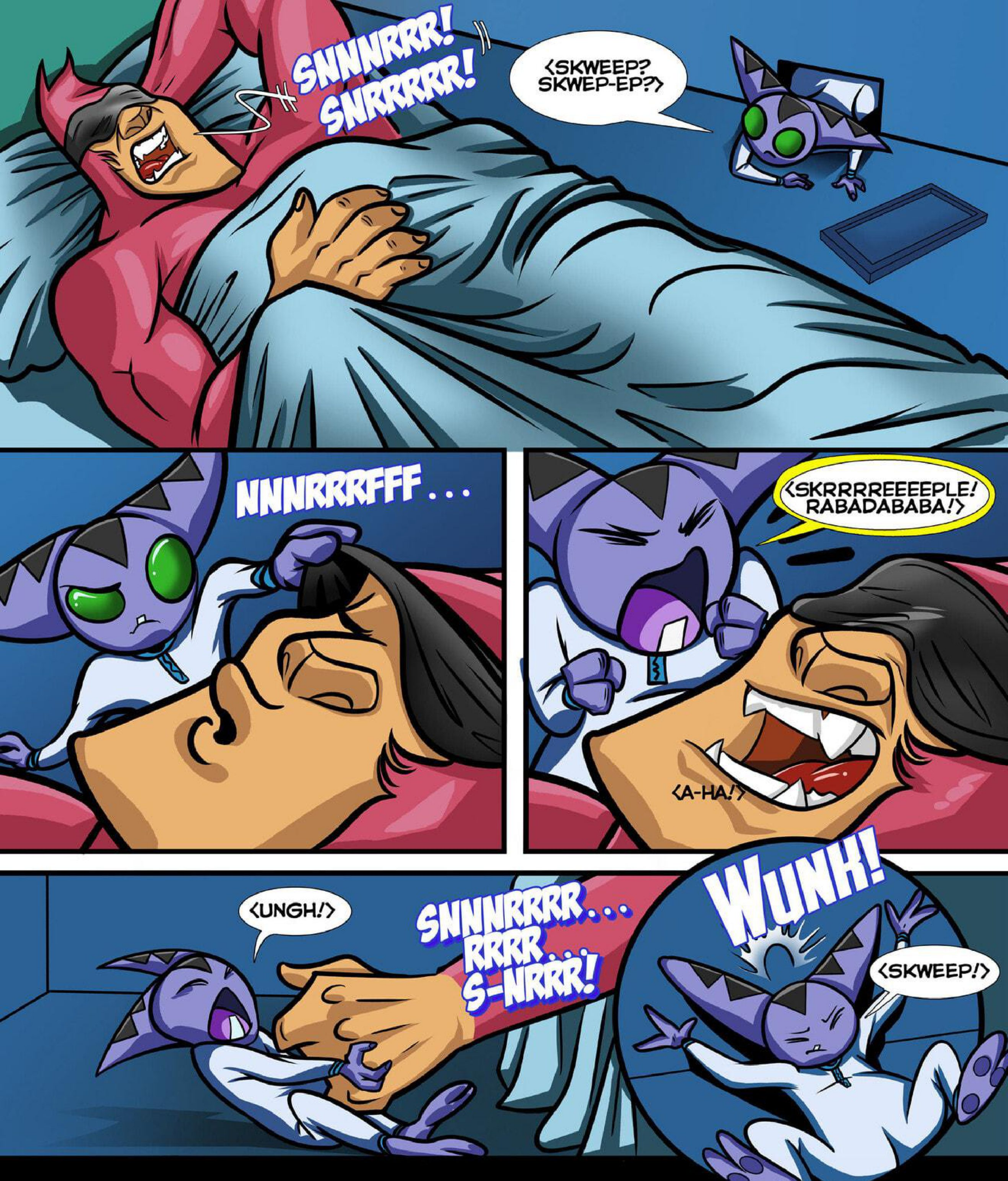

‹SKWIP.›
SNIFF-IF-SNIFF-IF-IFFF
PUSH
SNIFF-SNIFFLE-SNUFFLE-SNIFF
‹SKWEEE -UP!›

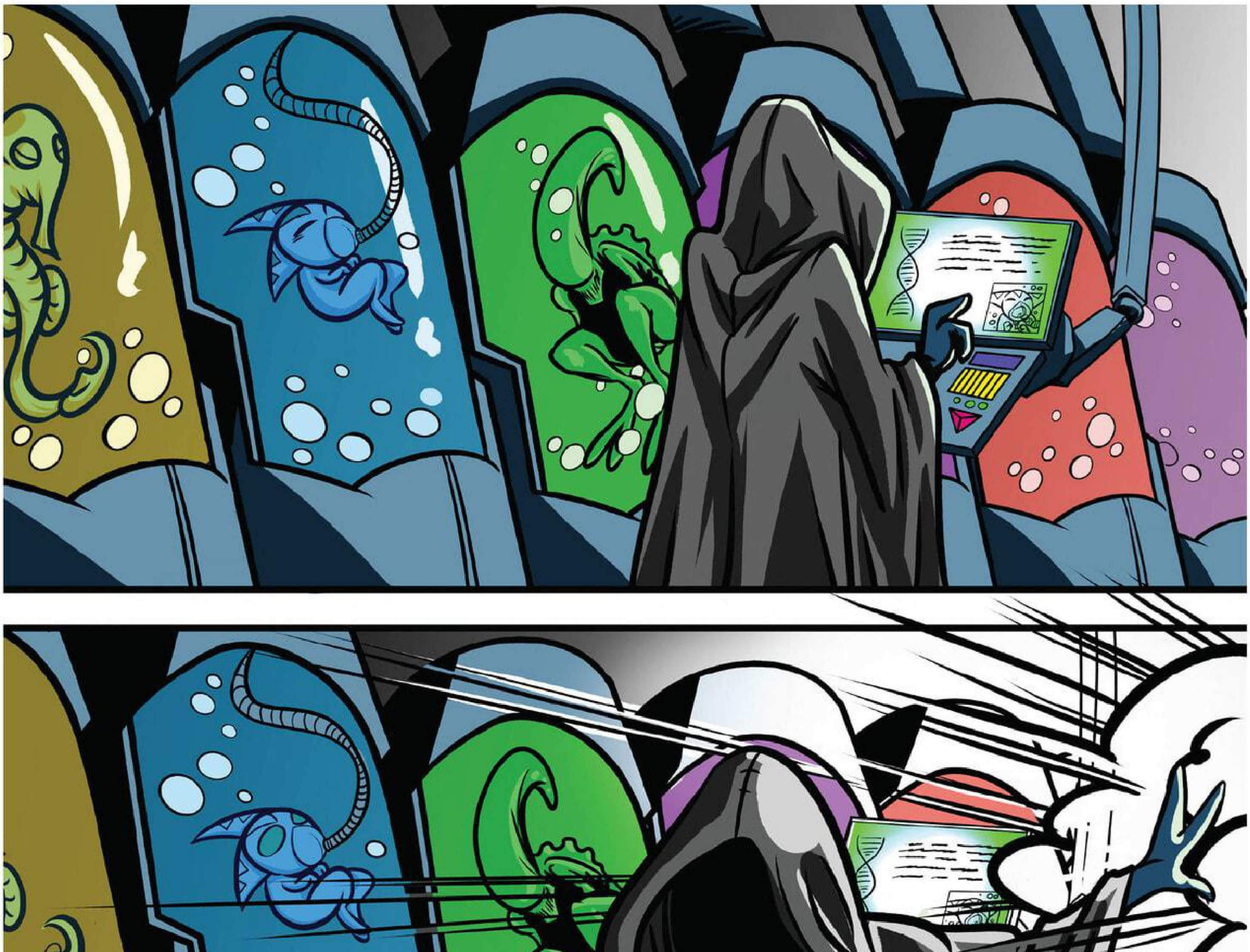

<?>
TLHAW’DIYUS!
BI’IQ.

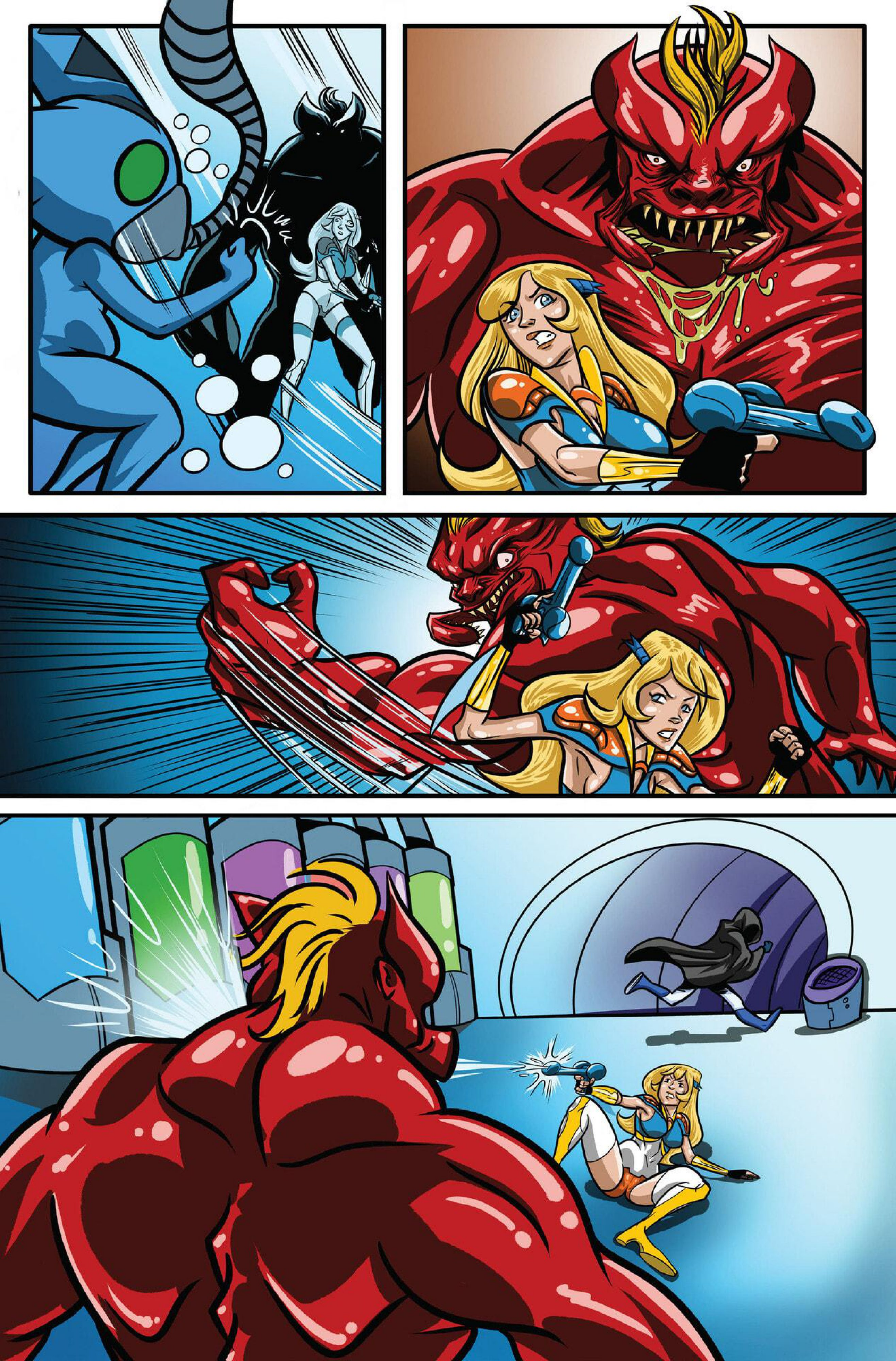

QEJ'A' TLHIH?
*HUFF! *
HUFF!*
'ACH SIYEP!
QO', 'OVELYA.
WUMPF!

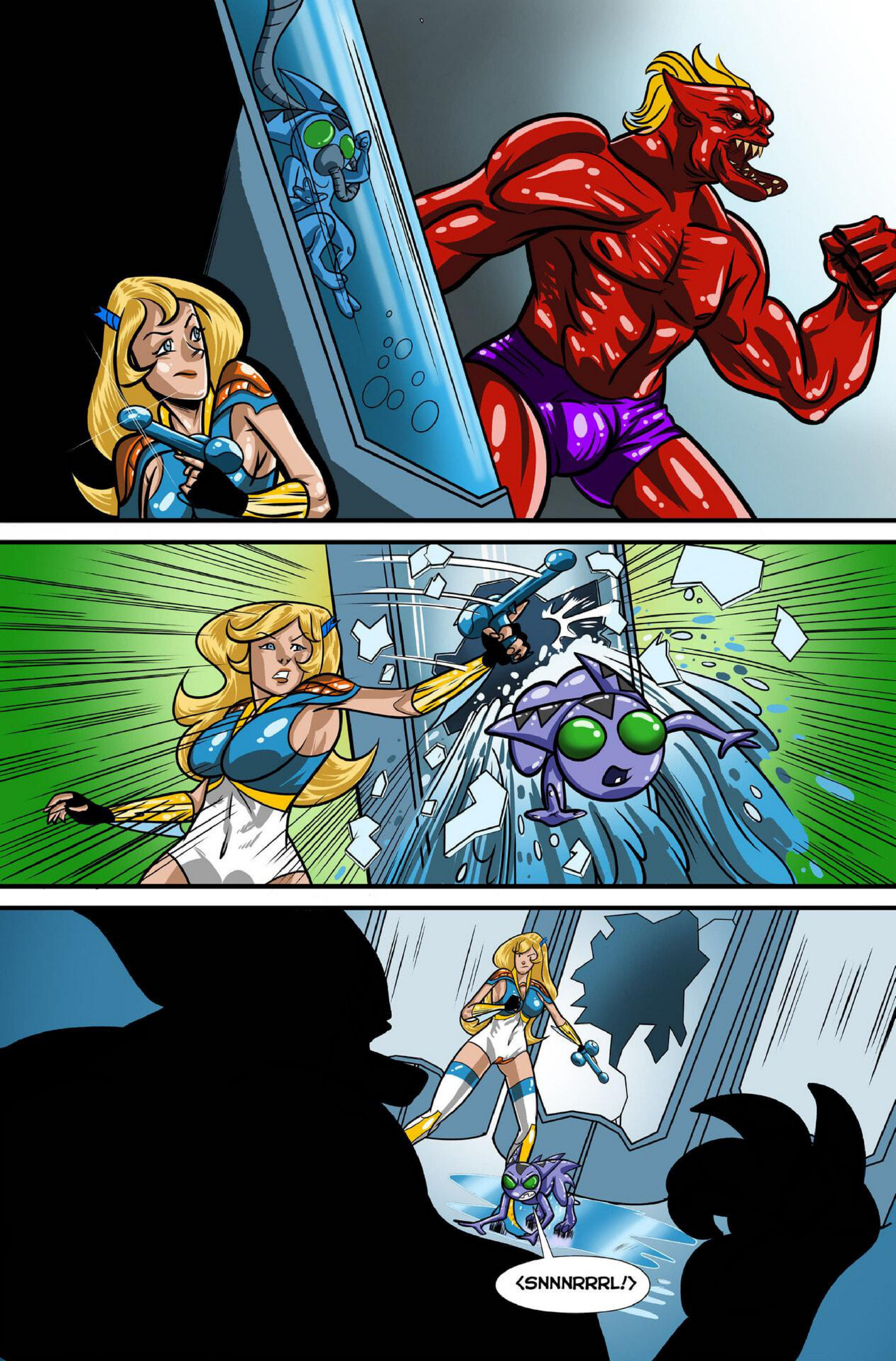

MMNN... EVER SAID... COMEDIAN... WORKING ON... MY FEET... FOR THE BIRDS...
FZZZMM!
QEP'IT.
...ORANGE AND... REALLY... TINY...
<SNORE!>
PSSSHHH!
TIGH YISAH!
POP!

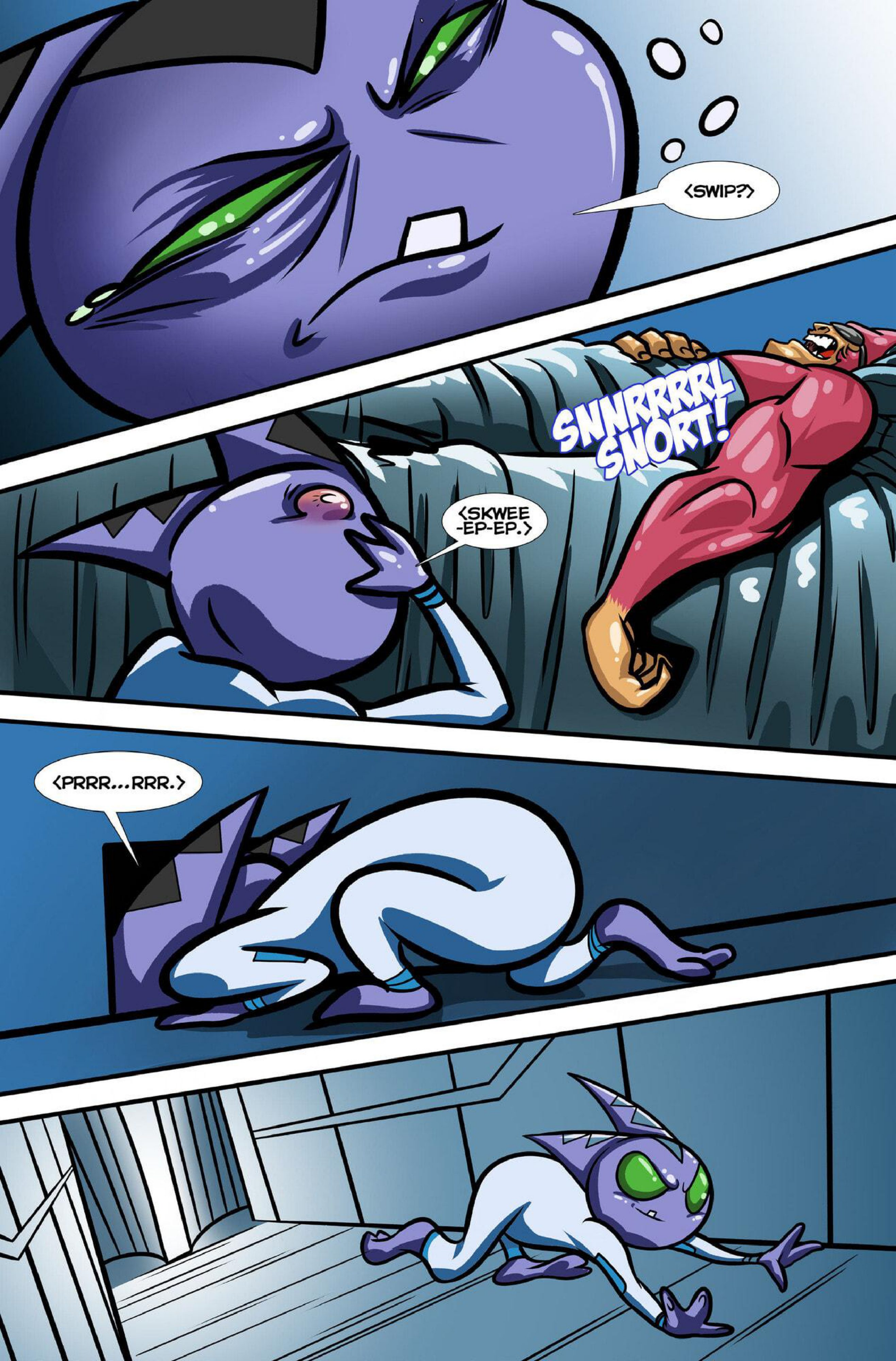

<SKREEBLE!> <SKWEEP.>
<SKRIP?>
WEE-OOP!
<BLECHT!>
<A-HA!>
WRUNCHT!

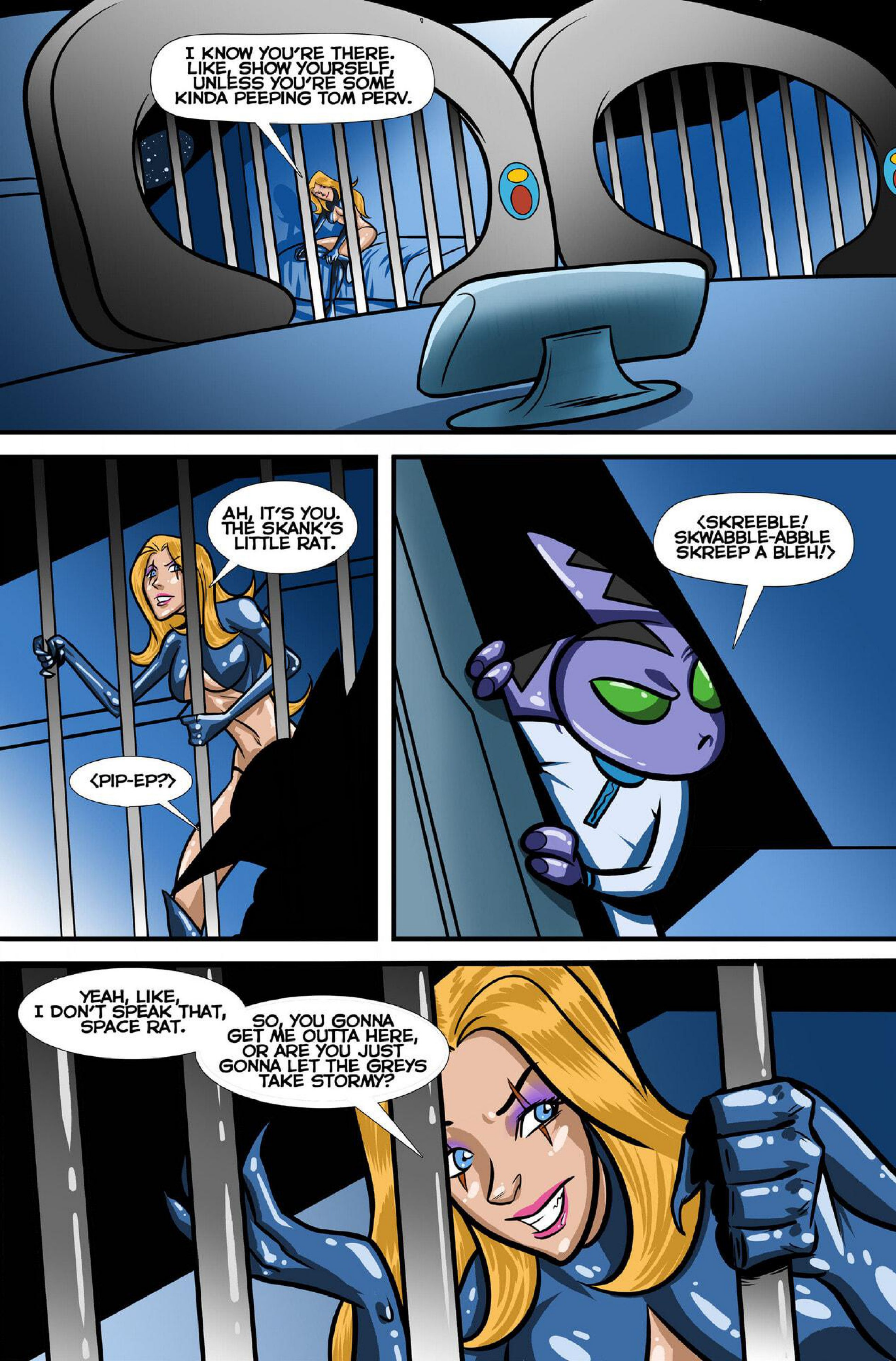

SNNNRRR!
SNRRRRR!
<SKWEEP? SKWEP-EP?>
NNNRRRFFF...
<SKRRRREEEEPLE! RABADABABA!>
<A-HA!>
<UNGH!>
SNNNRRRR... RRRR... S-NRRR!
WUNK!
<SKWEEP!>

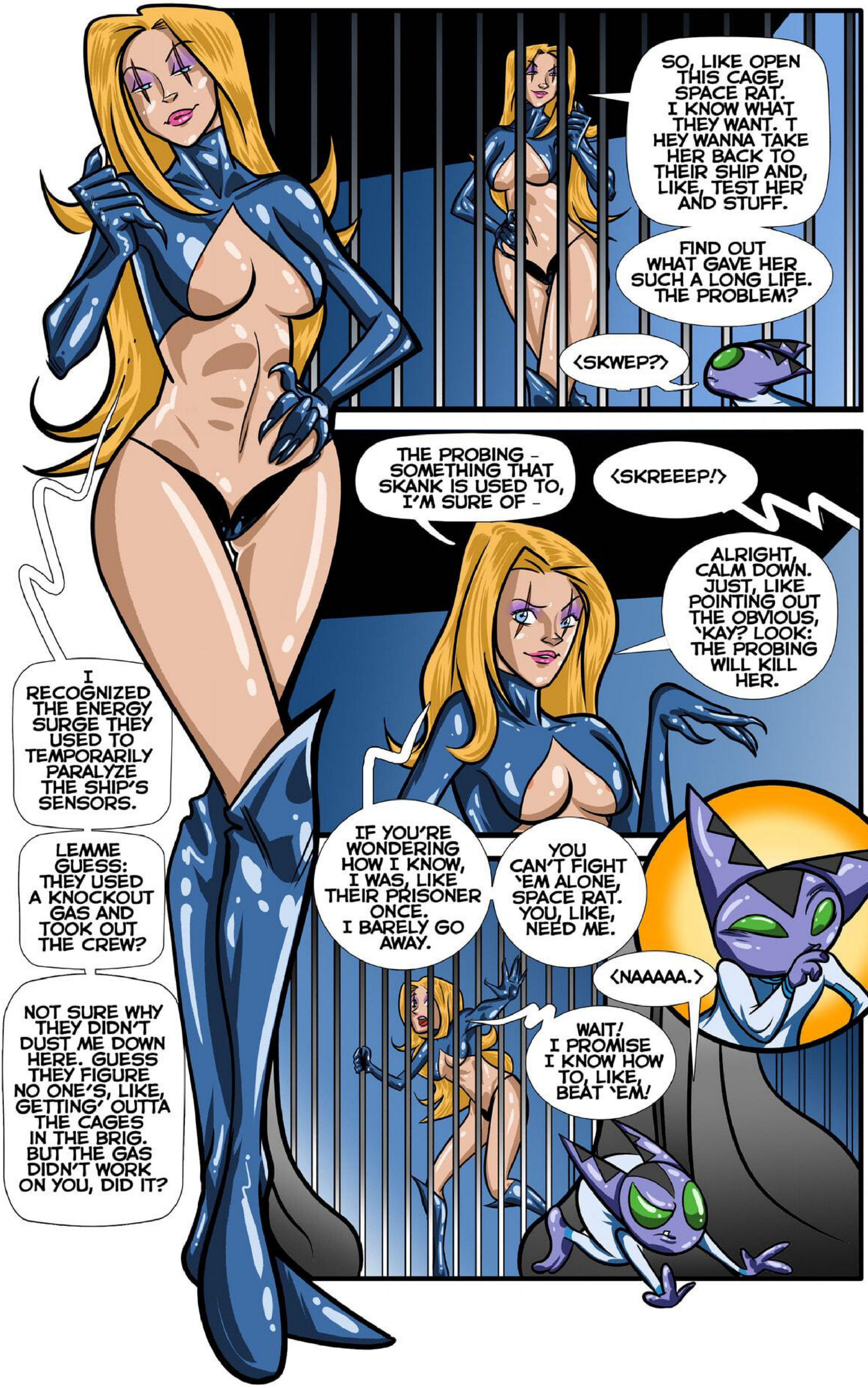


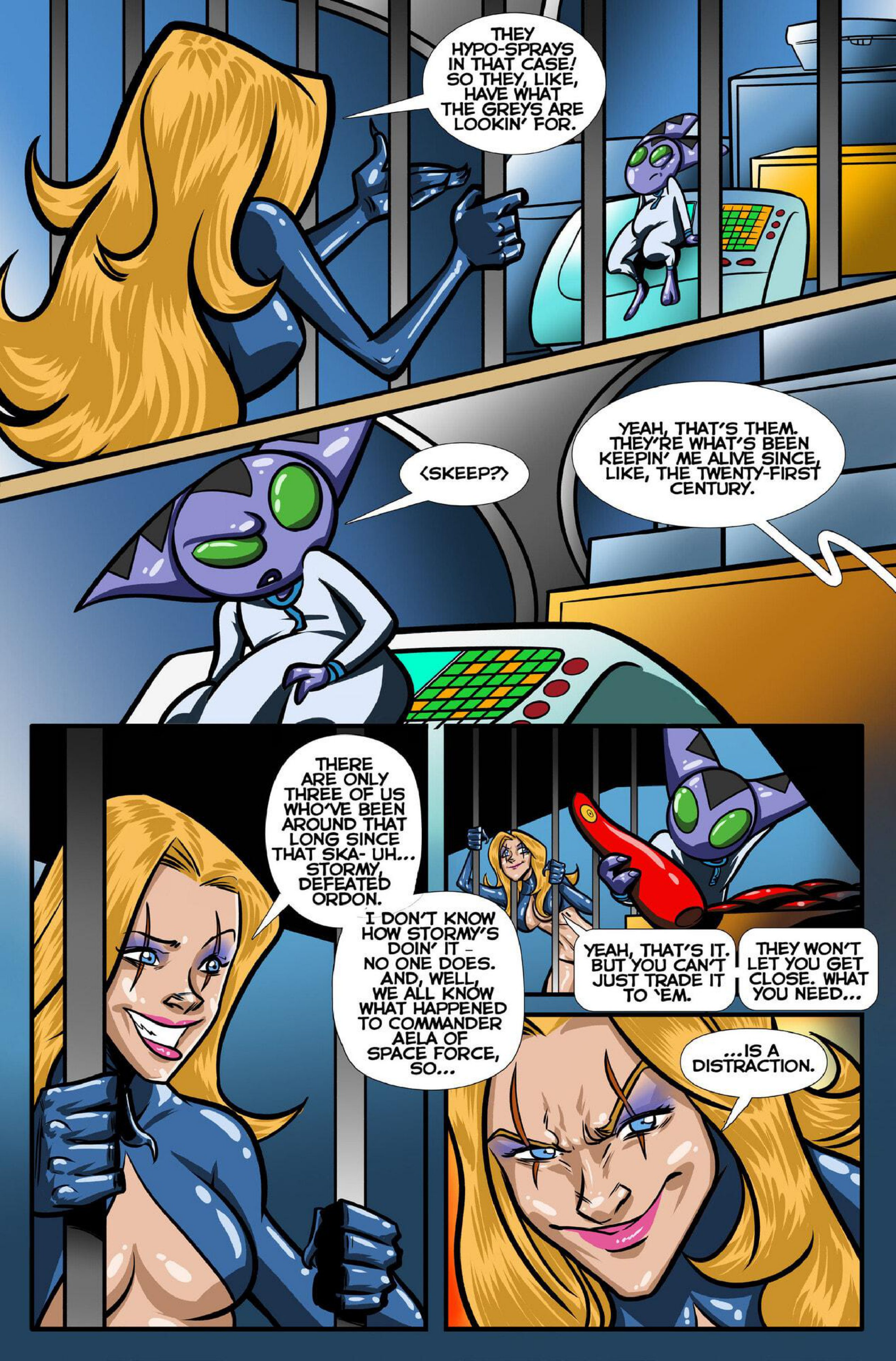


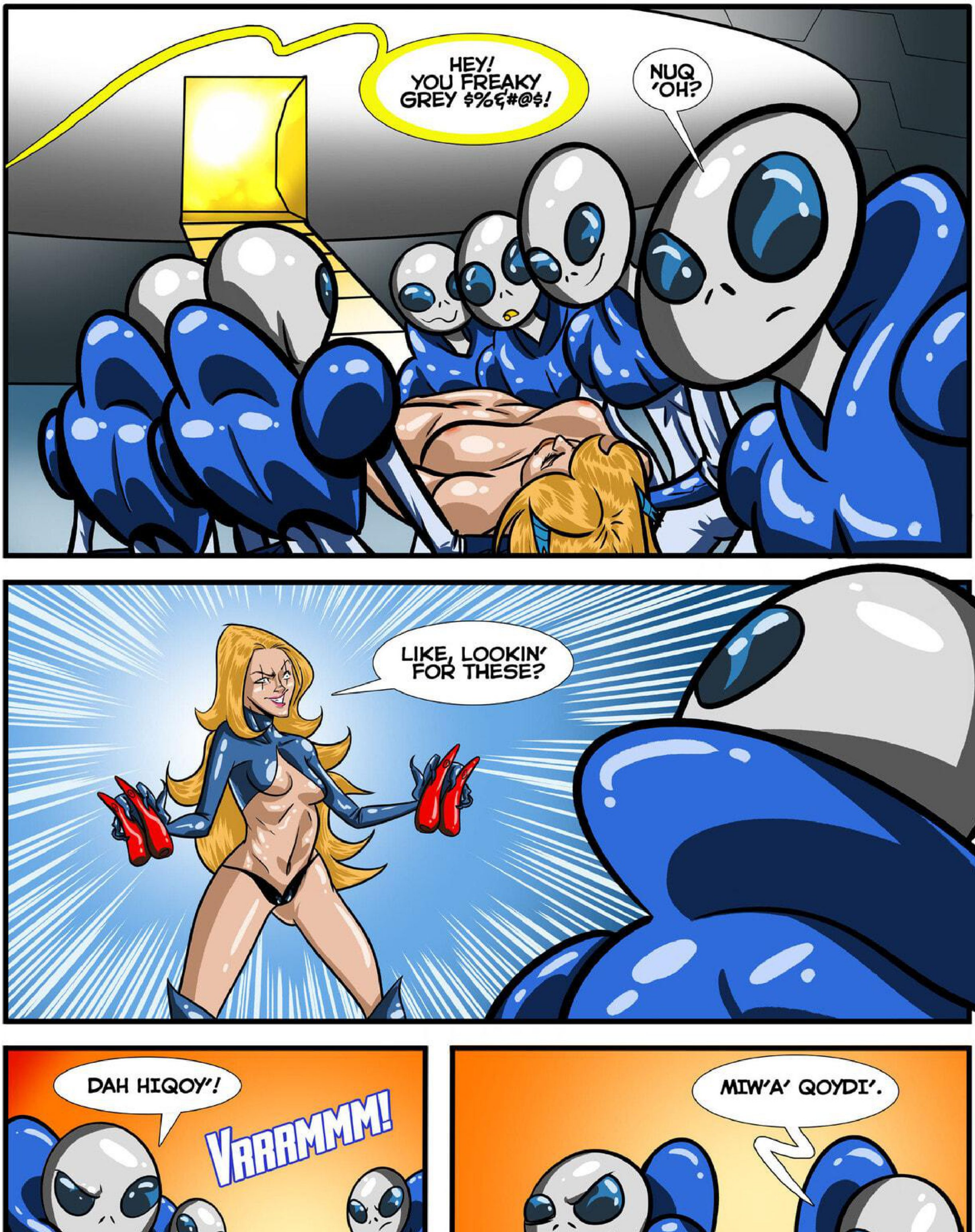


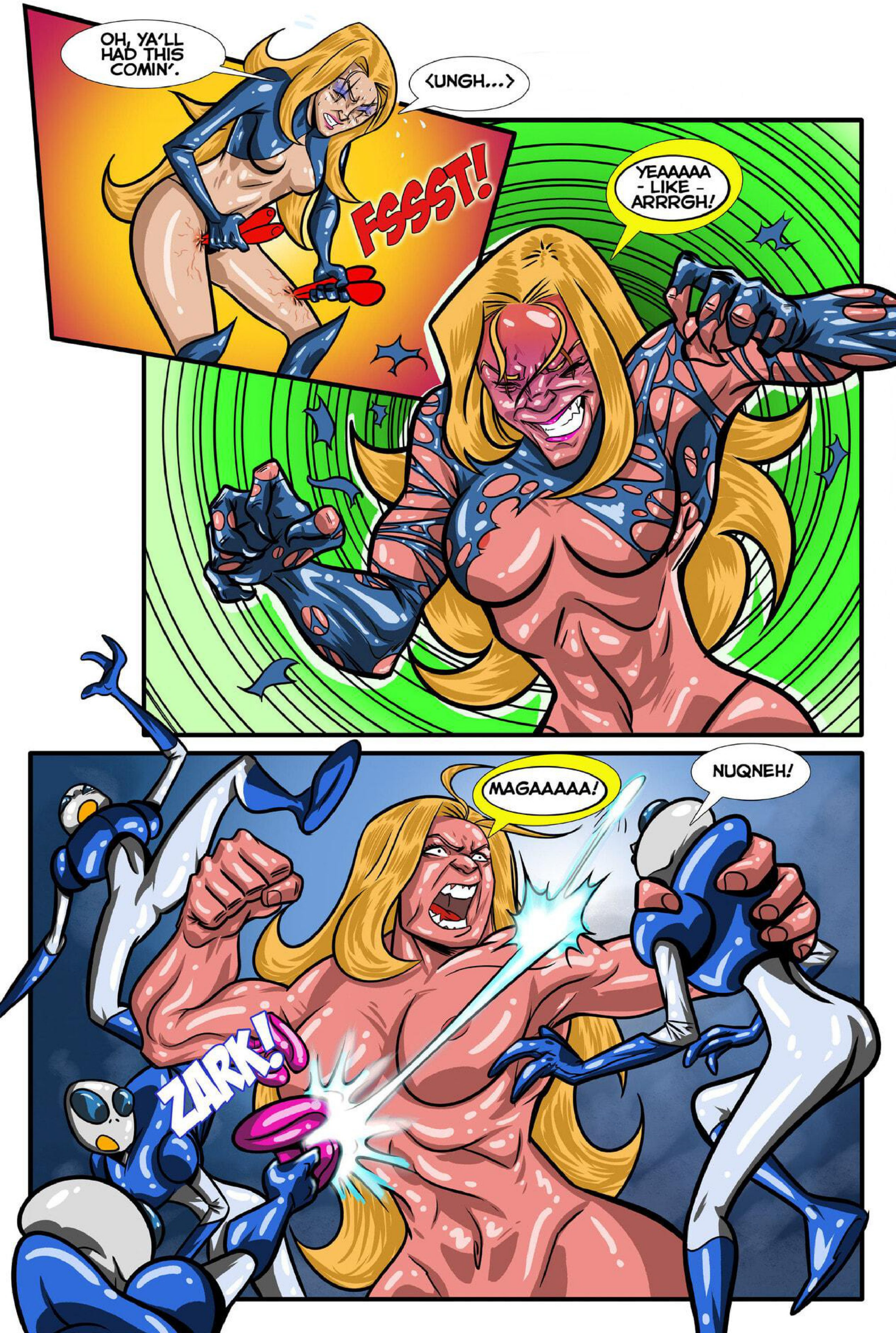

‹SWIP?›
‹SKWEE -EP-EP.›
SNNRRRRL SNORT!
‹PRRR...RRR.›

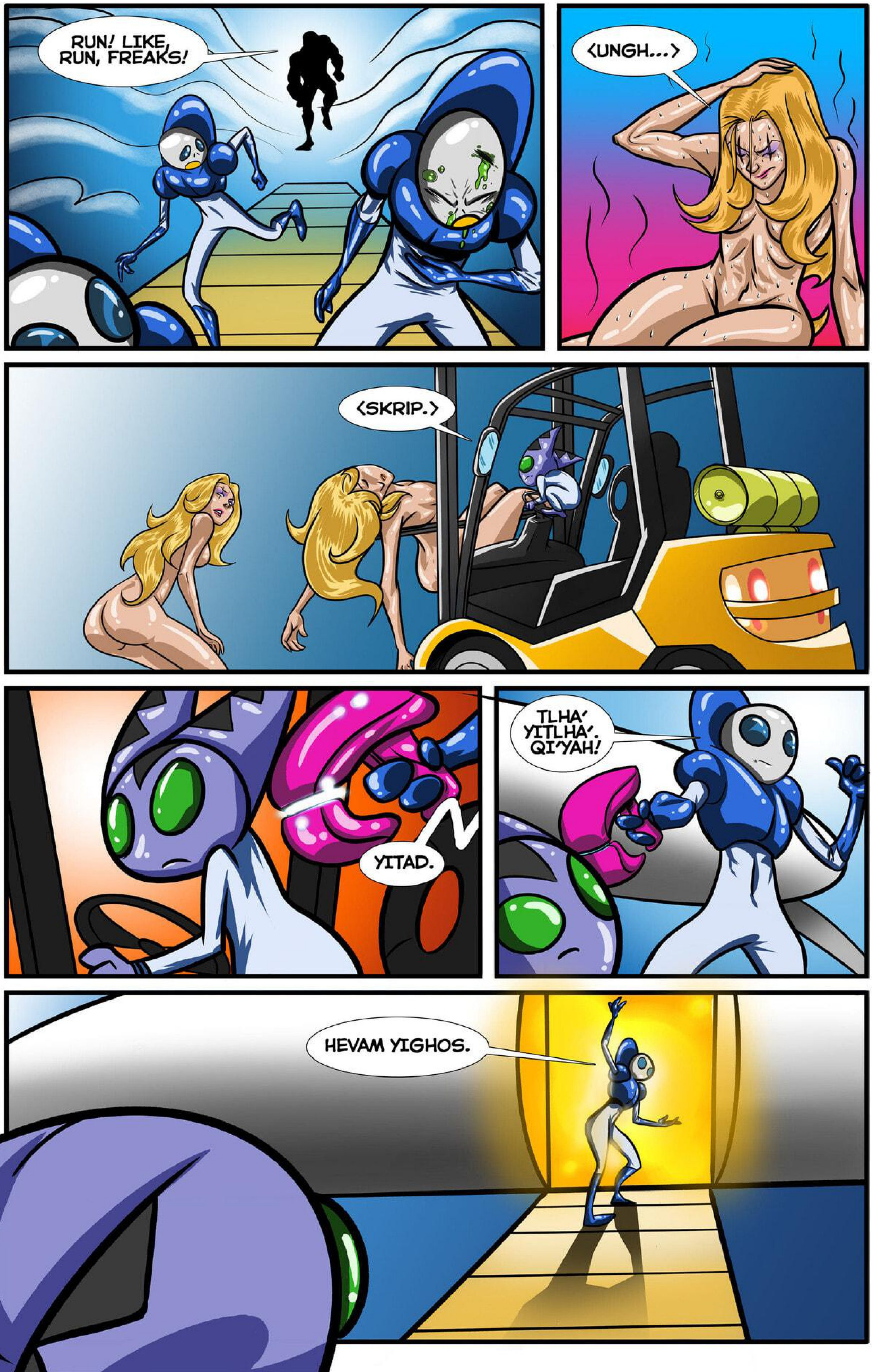

I KNOW YOU'RE THERE. LIKE, SHOW YOURSELF, UNLESS YOU'RE SOME KINDA PEEPING TOM PERV.
AH, IT'S YOU. THE SKANK'S LITTLE RAT.
‹PIP-EP?›
‹SKREEBLE! SKWABBLE-ABBLE SKREEP A BLEH!›
YEAH, LIKE, I DON'T SPEAK THAT, SPACE RAT.
SO, YOU GONNA GET ME OUTTA HERE, OR ARE YOU JUST GONNA LET THE GREYS TAKE STORMY?

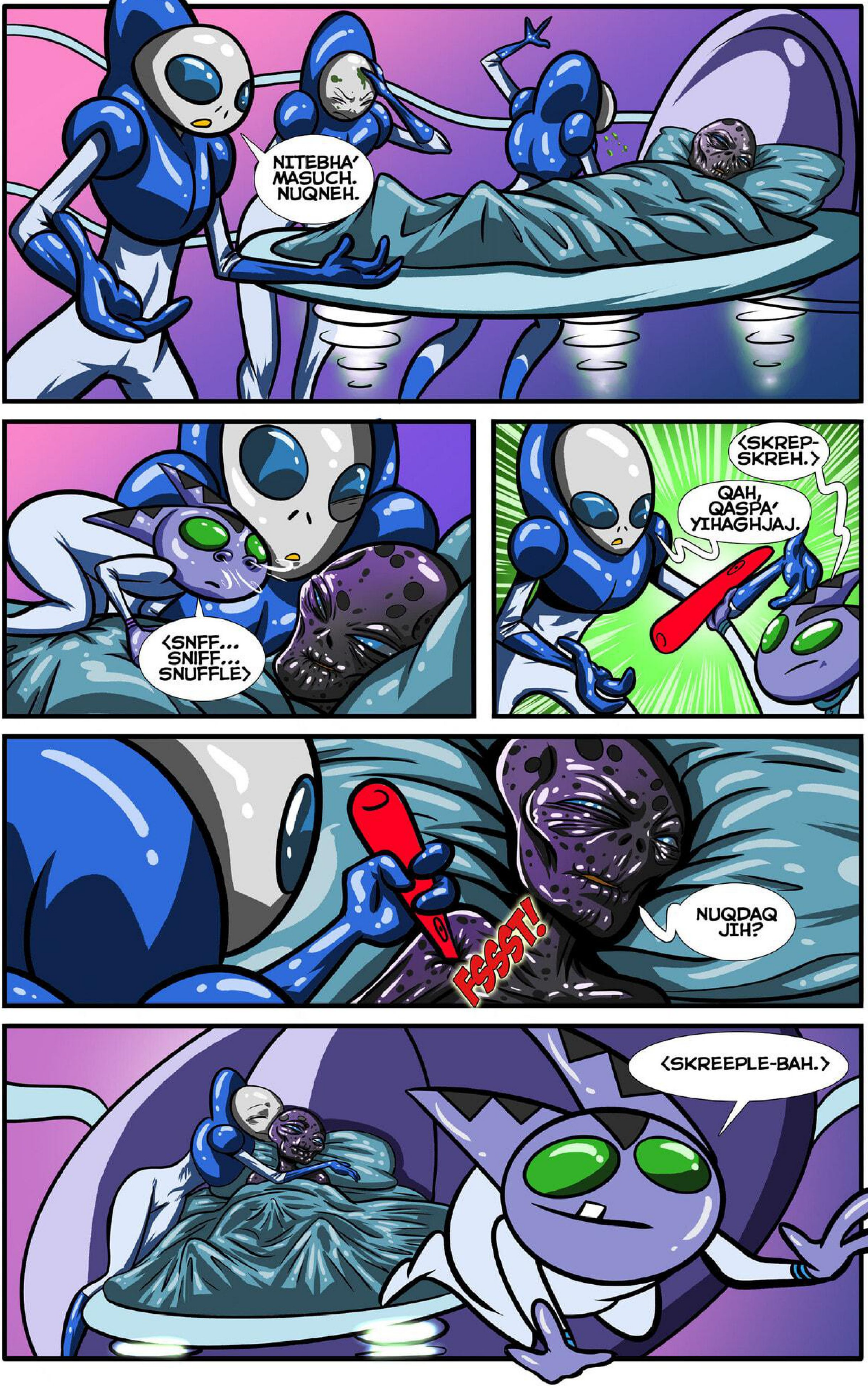

SO, LIKE OPEN THIS CAGE, SPACE RAT. I KNOW WHAT THEY WANT. T HEY WANNA TAKE HER BACK TO THEIR SHIP AND, LIKE, TEST HER AND STUFF.
FIND OUT WHAT GAVE HER SUCH A LONG LIFE. THE PROBLEM?
<SKWEP?>
I RECOGNIZED THE ENERGY SURGE THEY USED TO TEMPORARILY PARALYZE THE SHIP'S SENSORS.
LEMME GUESS: THEY USED A KNOCKOUT GAS AND TOOK OUT THE CREW?
NOT SURE WHY THEY DIDN'T DUST ME DOWN HERE. GUESS THEY FIGURE NO ONE'S, LIKE, GETTING' OUTTA THE CAGES IN THE BRIG. BUT THE GAS DIDN'T WORK ON YOU, DID IT?
THE PROBING – SOMETHING THAT SKANK IS USED TO, I'M SURE OF –
<SKREEEP!>
ALRIGHT, CALM DOWN. JUST, LIKE POINTING OUT THE OBVIOUS, 'KAY? LOOK: THE PROBING WILL KILL HER.
IF YOU'RE WONDERING HOW I KNOW, I WAS, LIKE THEIR PRISONER ONCE. I BARELY GO AWAY.
YOU CAN'T FIGHT 'EM ALONE, SPACE RAT. YOU, LIKE, NEED ME.
<NAAAAA.>
WAIT! I PROMISE I KNOW HOW TO, LIKE, BEAT 'EM!

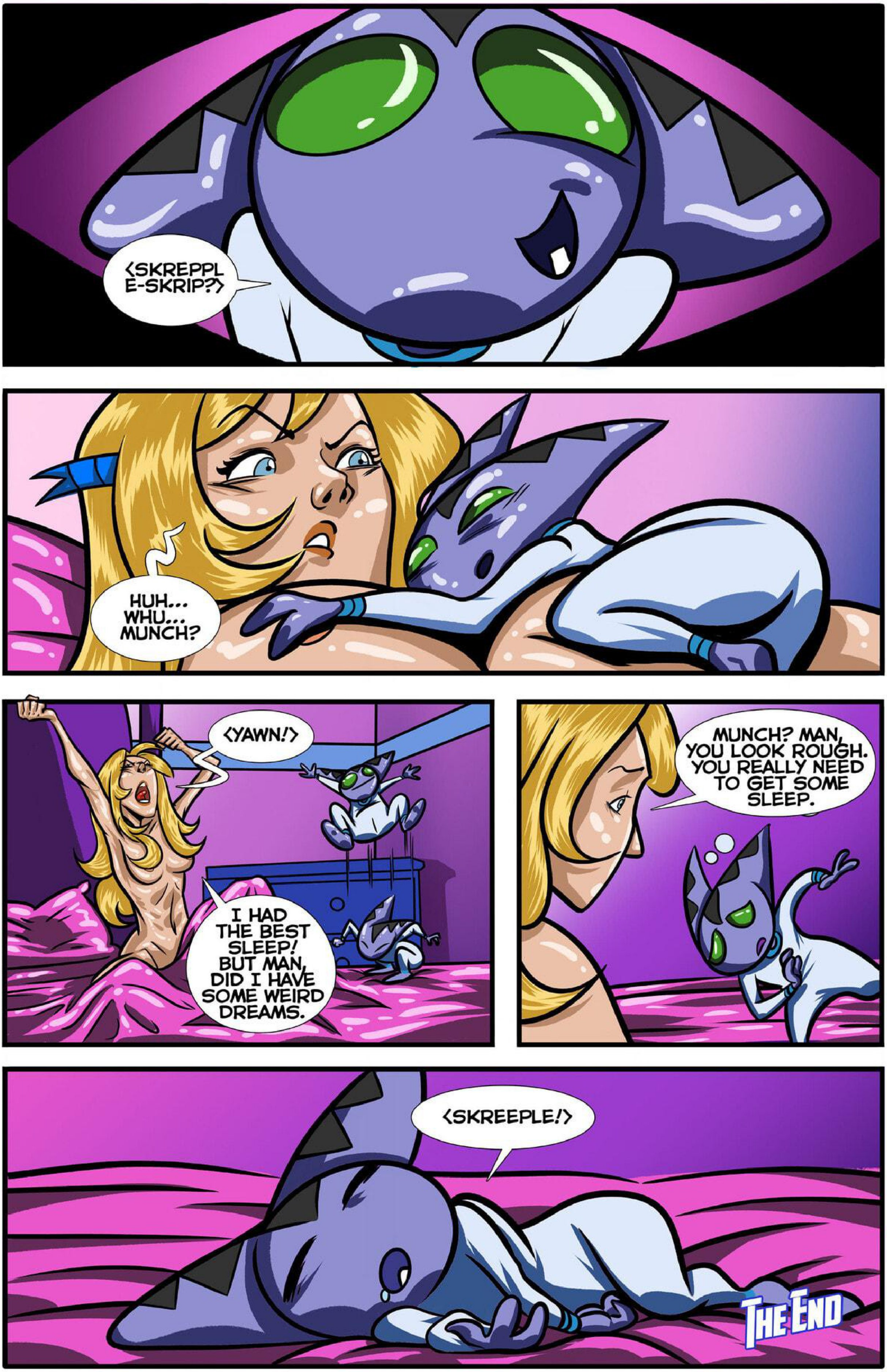

THEY HYPO-SPRAYS IN THAT CASE! SO THEY, LIKE, HAVE WHAT THE GREYS ARE LOOKIN' FOR.
<SKEEP?>
YEAH, THAT'S THEM. THEY'RE WHAT'S BEEN KEEPIN' ME ALIVE SINCE, LIKE, THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.
THERE ARE ONLY THREE OF US WHO'VE BEEN AROUND THAT LONG SINCE THAT SKA- UH... STORMY, DEFEATED ORDON.
I DON'T KNOW HOW STORMY'S DOIN' IT – NO ONE DOES. AND, WELL, WE ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO COMMANDER AELA OF SPACE FORCE, SO...
YEAH, THAT'S IT. BUT YOU CAN'T JUST TRADE IT TO 'EM.
THEY WON'T LET YOU GET CLOSE. WHAT YOU NEED...
...IS A DISTRACTION.

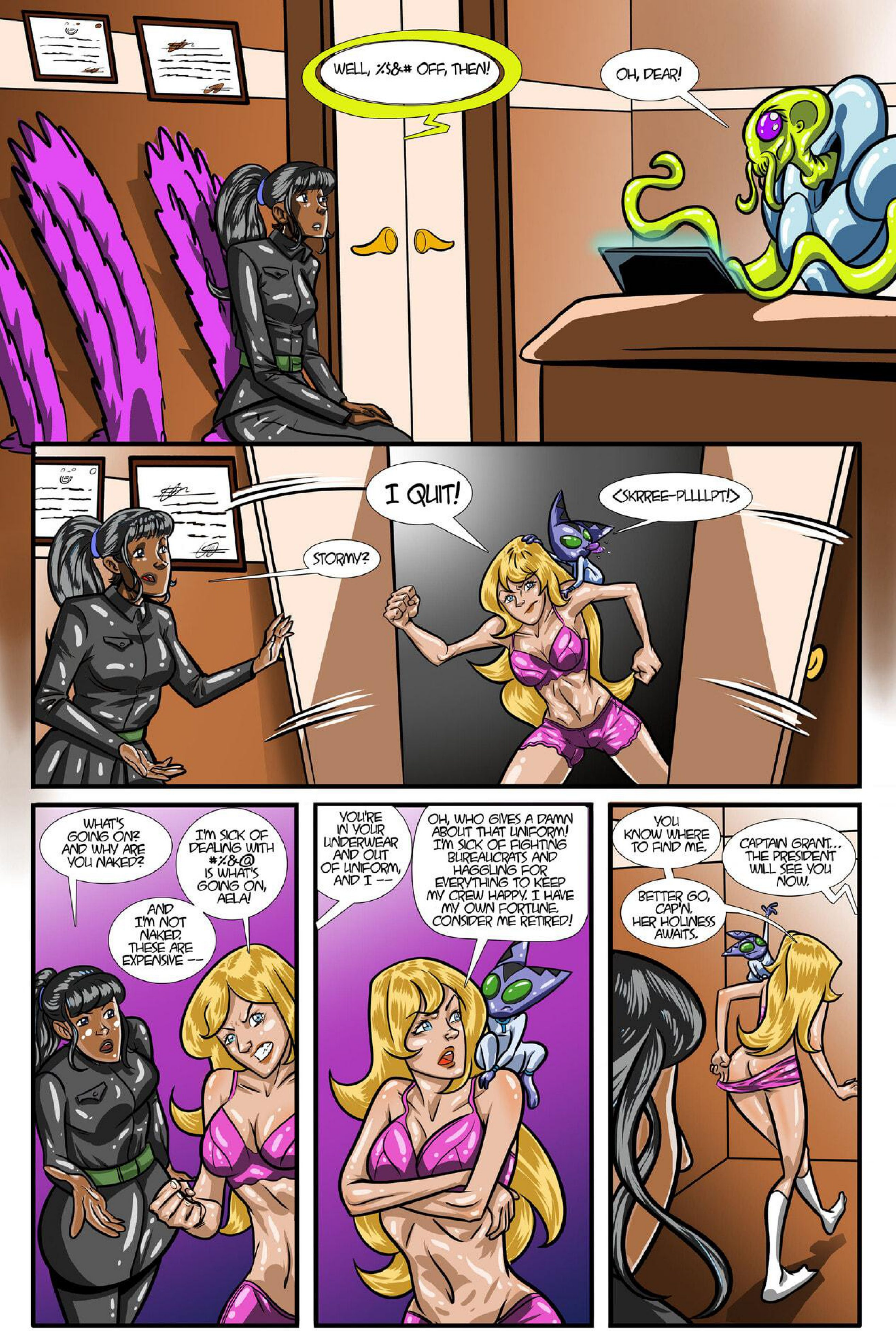

HEY! YOU FREAKY GREY $%£#@$!
NUQ 'OH?
LIKE, LOOKIN' FOR THESE?
DAH HIQOY'!
VRRRMMM!
MIW'A' QOYDI'.
ZRAP!
Z-POW!

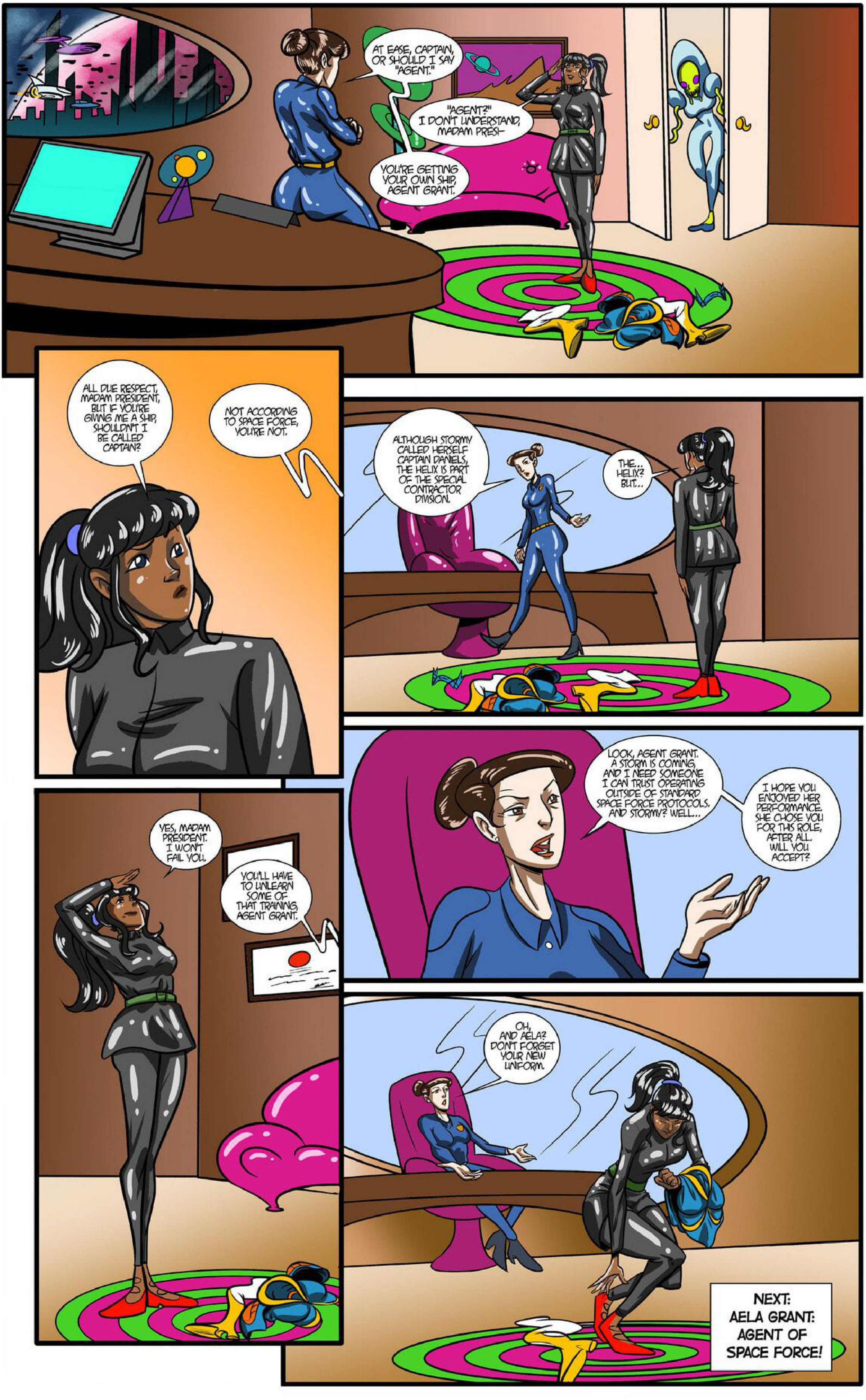

OH, YA'LL HAD THIS COMIN'.
<UNGH...>
FSSST!
YEAAAAA - LIKE - ARRRGH!
MAGAAAAA!
NUQNEH!
ZARK!


RUN! LIKE, RUN, FREAKS!
<UNGH...>
<SKRIP.>
YITAD.
TLHA' YITLHA'. QI'YAH!
HEVAM YIGHOS.

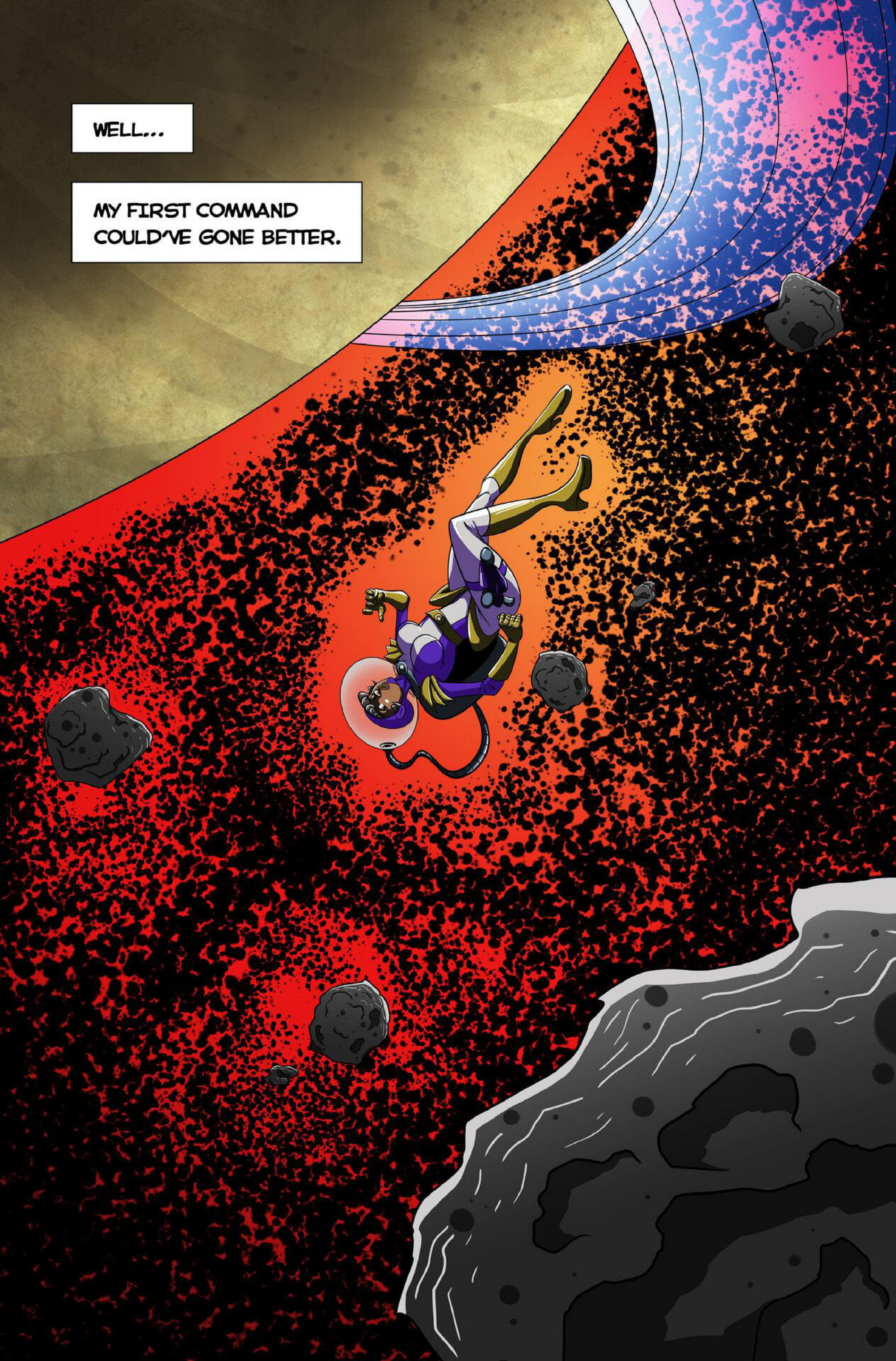

NITEBHA' MASUCH. NUQNEH.
<SNFF... SNIFF... SNUFFLE>
<SKREP-SKREH.>
QAH, QASPA' YIHAGHJAJ.
FSSST!
NUQDAQ JIH?
<SKREEPLE-BAH.>

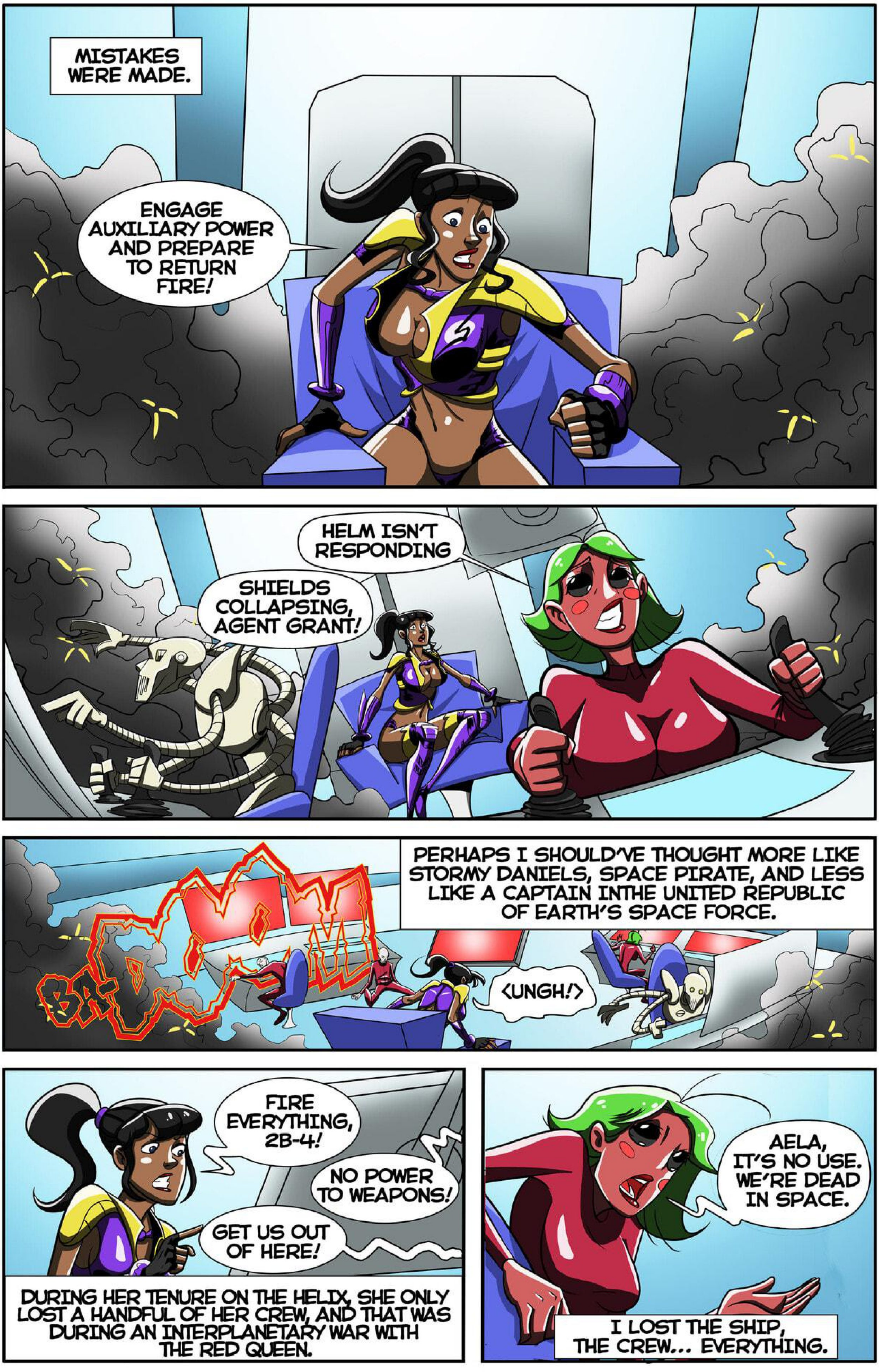

<SKREPPLE-SKRIP?>
HUH... WHU... MUNCH?
<YAWN!>
I HAD THE BEST SLEEP! BUT MAN, DID I HAVE SOME WEIRD DREAMS.
MUNCH? MAN, YOU LOOK ROUGH. YOU REALLY NEED TO GET SOME SLEEP.
<SKREEPLE!>
THE END

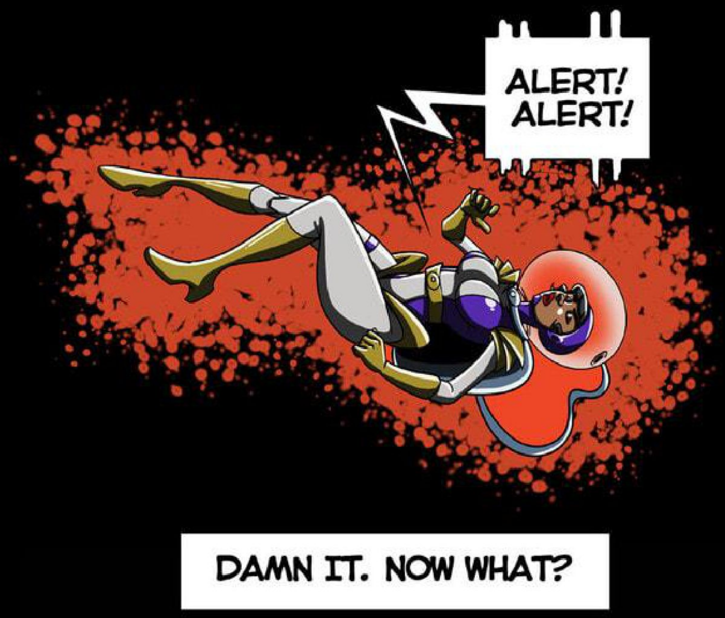

WELL, %$&# OFF, THEN!
OH, DEAR!
I QUIT!
<SKRREE-PLLLLPT!>
STORMY?
WHAT'S GOING ON? AND WHY ARE YOU NAKED?
I'M SICK OF DEALING WITH #%&@ IS WHAT'S GOING ON, AELA!
AND I'M NOT NAKED. THESE ARE EXPENSIVE --
YOU'RE IN YOUR UNDERWEAR AND OUT OF UNIFORM, AND I --
OH, WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT THAT UNIFORM! I'M SICK OF FIGHTING BUREAUCRATS AND HAGGLING FOR EVERYTHING TO KEEP MY CREW HAPPY. I HAVE MY OWN FORTUNE. CONSIDER ME RETIRED!
YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.
CAPTAIN GRANT... THE PRESIDENT WILL SEE YOU NOW.
BETTER GO, CAP'N. HER HOLINESS AWAITS.

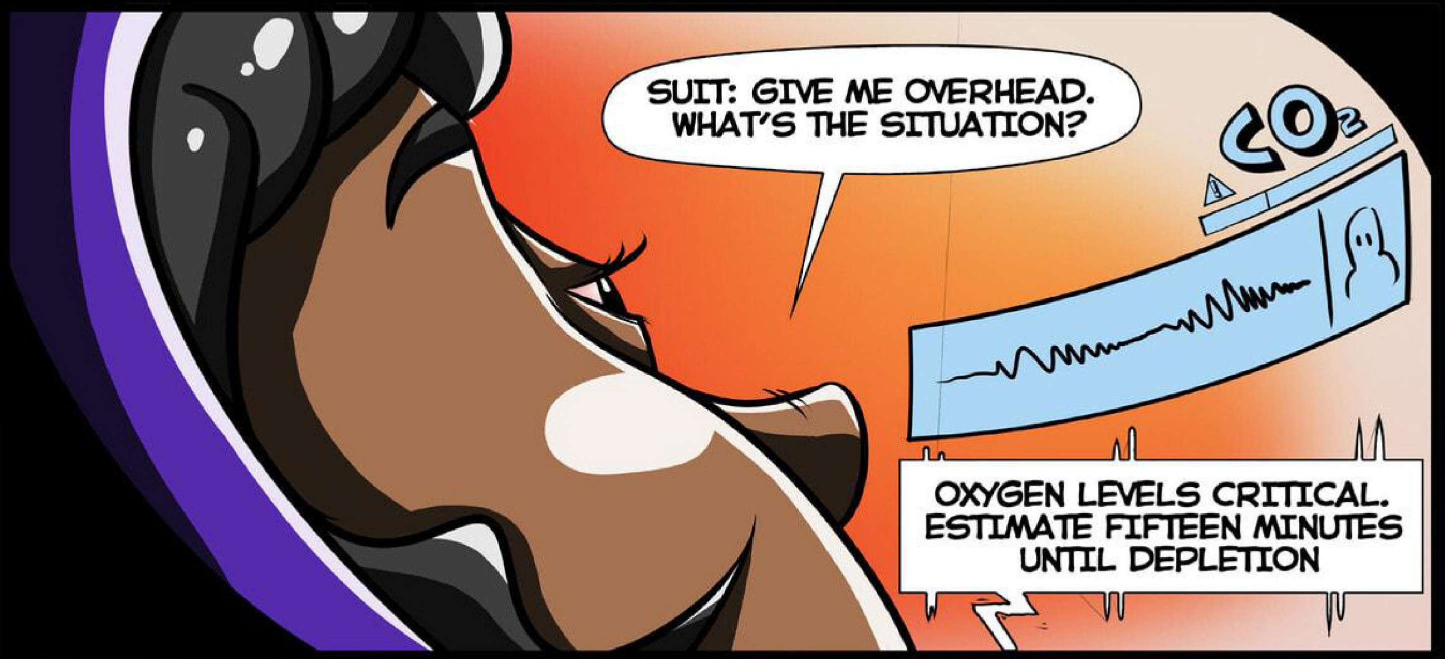

AT EASE, CAPTAIN, OR SHOULD I SAY "AGENT."
"AGENT?" I DON'T UNDERSTAND, MADAM PRESI-
YOU'RE GETTING YOUR OWN SHIP, AGENT GRANT.
ALL DUE RESPECT, MADAM PRESIDENT, BUT IF YOU'RE GIVING ME A SHIP, SHOULDN'T I BE CALLED CAPTAIN?
NOT ACCORDING TO SPACE FORCE, YOU'RE NOT.
ALTHOUGH STORMY CALLED HERSELF CAPTAIN DANIELS, THE HELIX IS PART OF THE SPECIAL CONTRACTOR DIVISION.
THE... HELIX? BUT...
LOOK, AGENT GRANT. A STORM IS COMING, AND I NEED SOMEONE I CAN TRUST OPERATING OUTSIDE OF STANDARD SPACE FORCE PROTOCOLS. AND STORMY? WELL...
I HOPE YOU ENJOYED HER PERFORMANCE. SHE CHOSE YOU FOR THIS ROLE, AFTER ALL. WILL YOU ACCEPT?
YES, MADAM PRESIDENT. I WON'T FAIL YOU.
YOU'LL HAVE TO UNLEARN SOME OF THAT TRAINING, AGENT GRANT.
OH, AND AELA? DON'T FORGET YOUR NEW UNIFORM.
NEXT: AELA GRANT: AGENT OF SPACE FORCE!

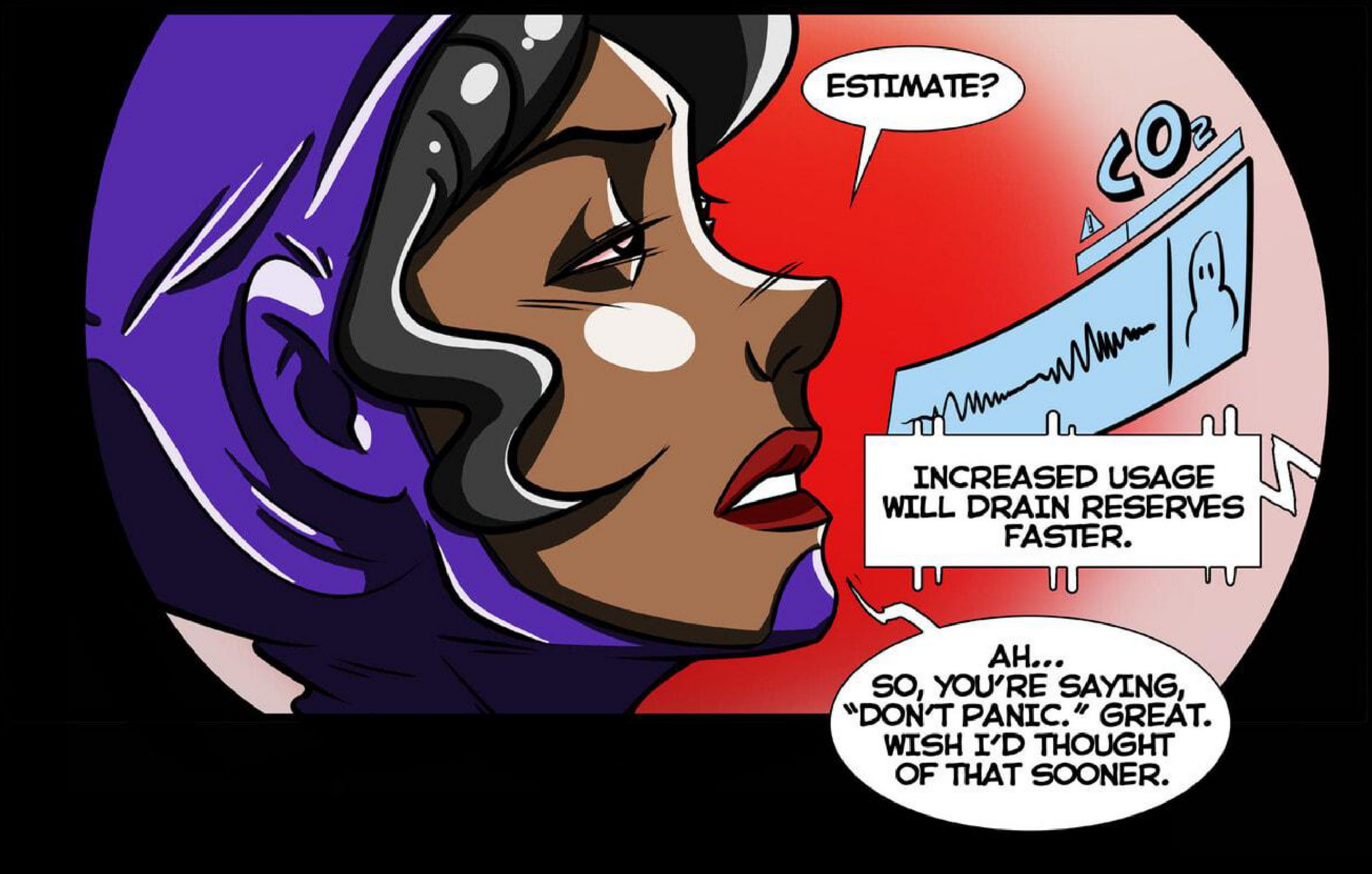
MISSION
TEN

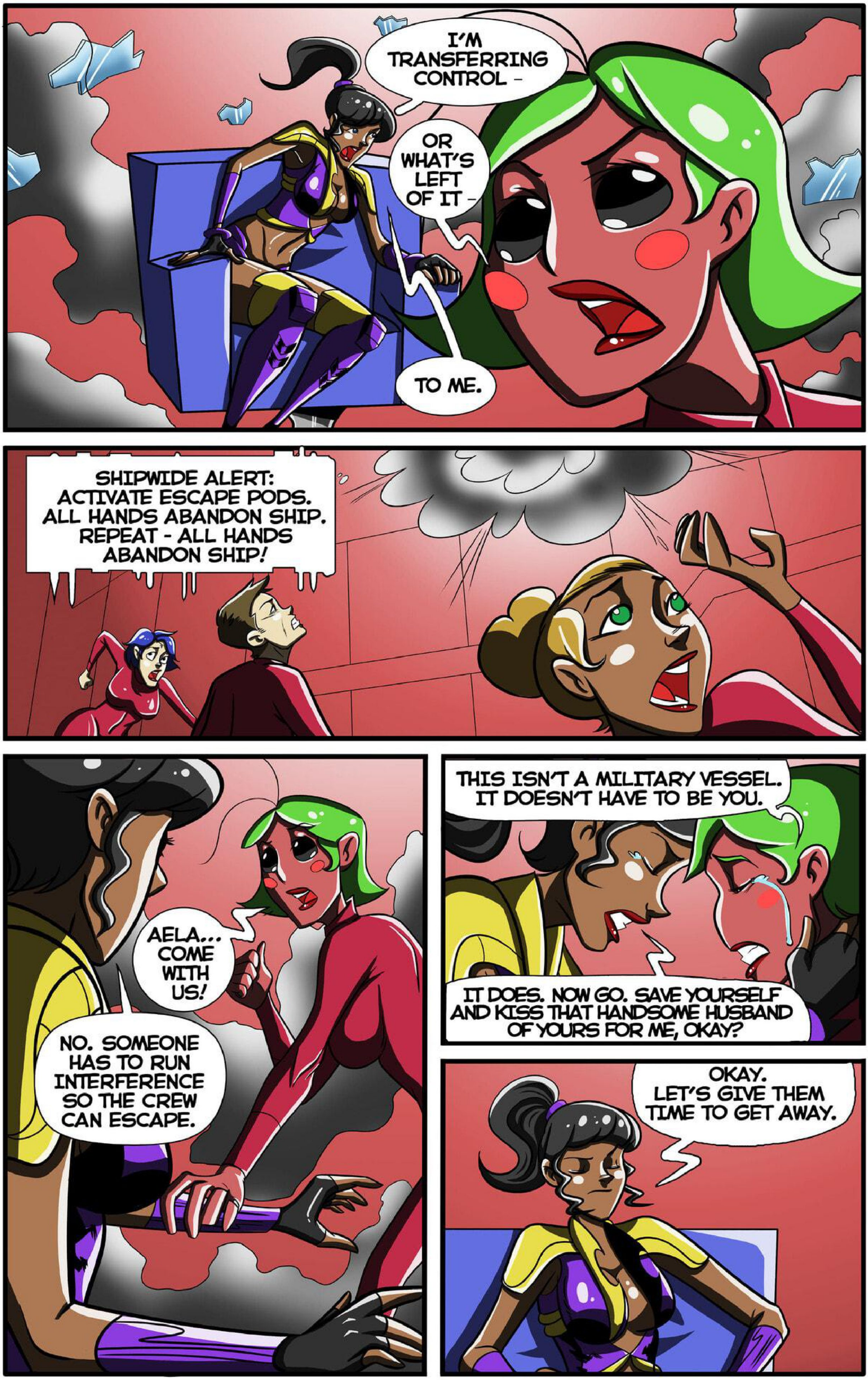

WELL...
MY FIRST COMMAND COULD'VE GONE BETTER.

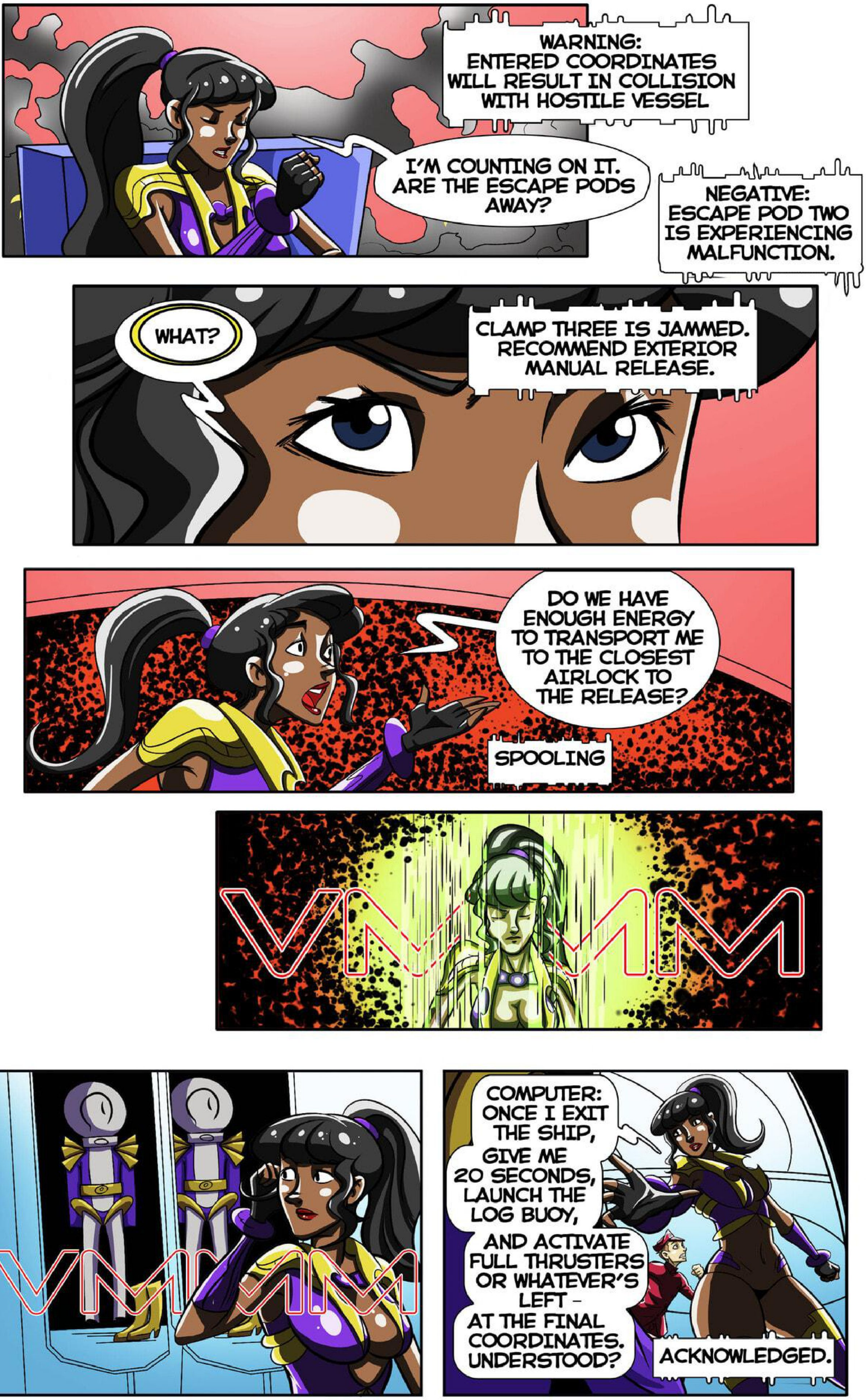

MISTAKES WERE MADE.
ENGAGE AUXILIARY POWER AND PREPARE TO RETURN FIRE!
HELM ISN'T RESPONDING
SHIELDS COLLAPSING, AGENT GRANT!
PERHAPS I SHOULD'VE THOUGHT MORE LIKE STORMY DANIELS, SPACE PIRATE, AND LESS LIKE A CAPTAIN INTHE UNITED REPUBLIC OF EARTH'S SPACE FORCE.
<UNGH!>
FIRE EVERYTHING, 2B-4!
NO POWER TO WEAPONS!
GET US OUT OF HERE!
DURING HER TENURE ON THE HELIX, SHE ONLY LOST A HANDFUL OF HER CREW, AND THAT WAS DURING AN INTERPLANETARY WAR WITH THE RED QUEEN.
AELA, IT'S NO USE. WE'RE DEAD IN SPACE.
I LOST THE SHIP, THE CREW... EVERYTHING.

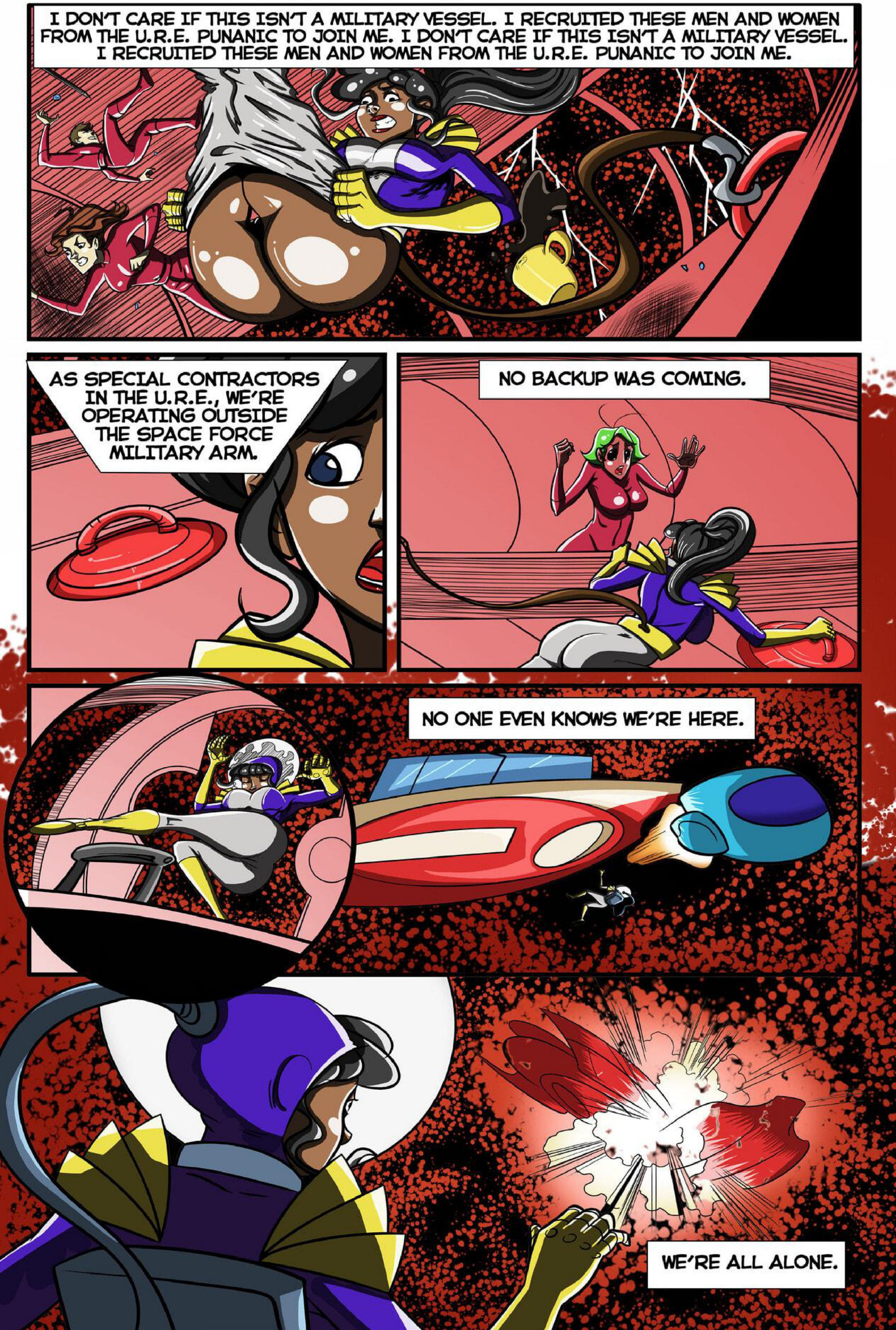

ALERT! ALERT!
DAMN IT. NOW WHAT?

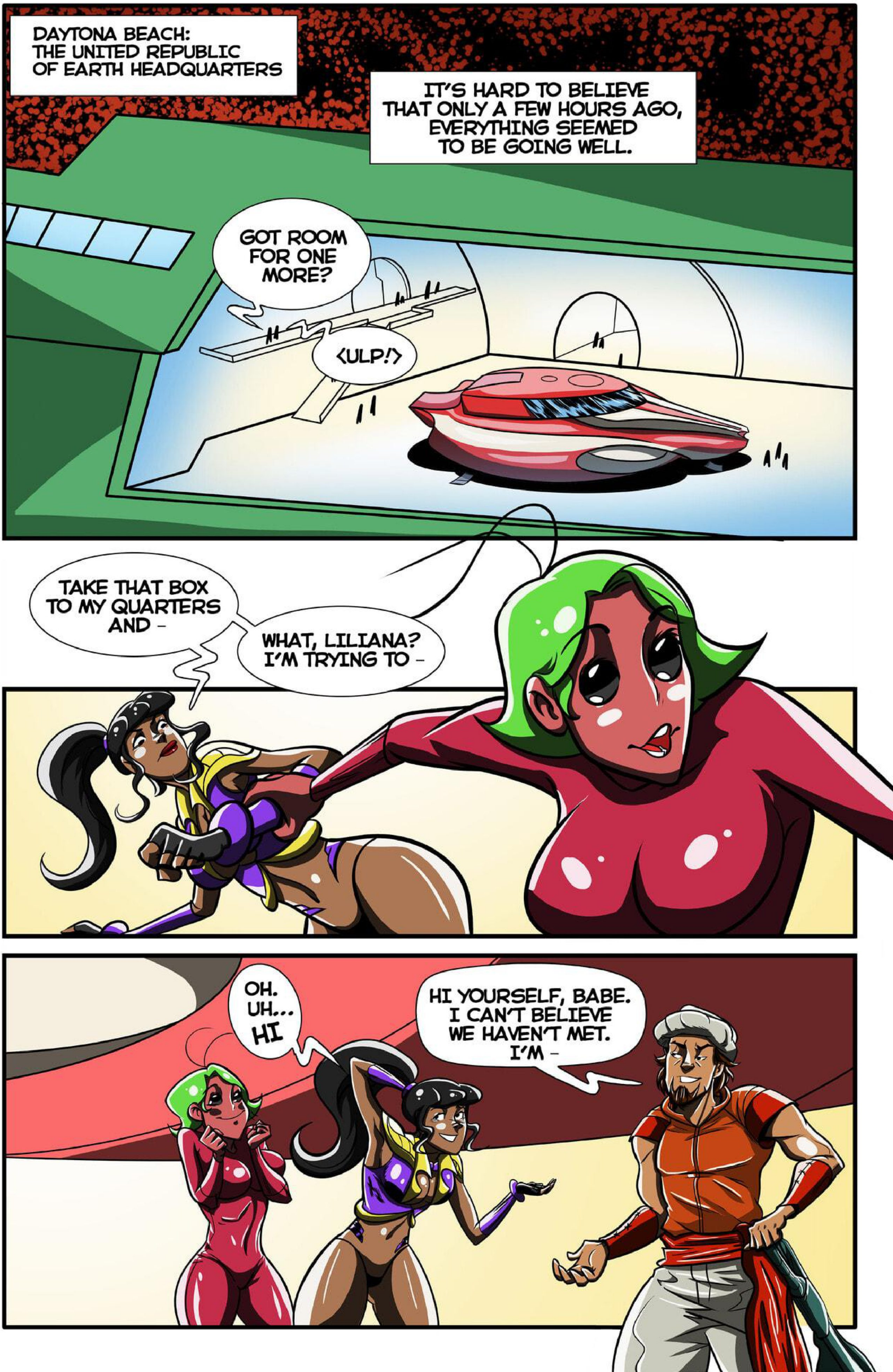

SUIT: GIVE ME OVERHEAD. WHAT'S THE SITUATION?
CO2
OXYGEN LEVELS CRITICAL. ESTIMATE FIFTEEN MINUTES UNTIL DEPLETION

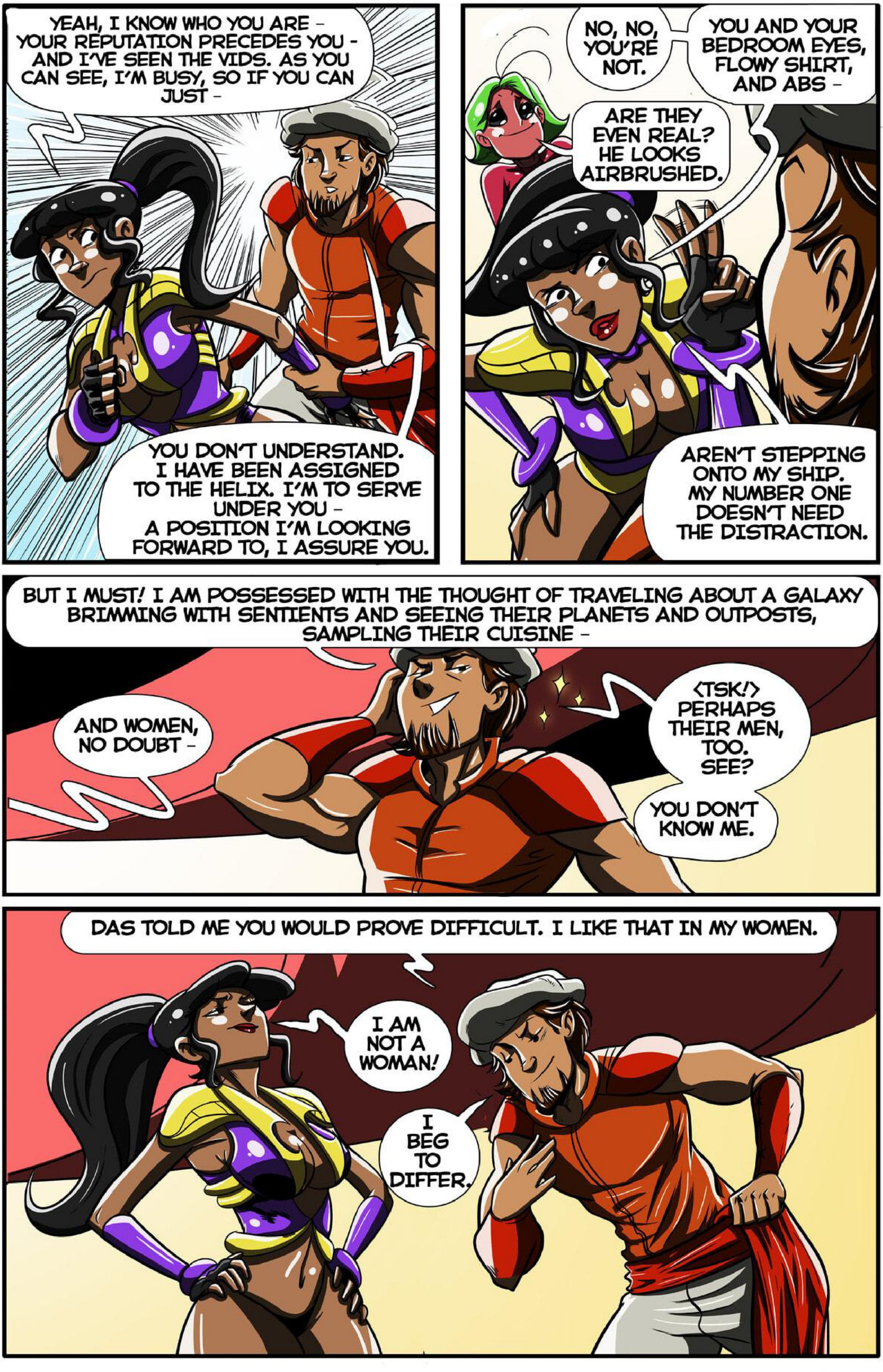

ESTIMATE?
CO2
INCREASED USAGE WILL DRAIN RESERVES FASTER.
AH... SO, YOU'RE SAYING, "DON'T PANIC." GREAT. WISH I'D THOUGHT OF THAT SOONER.

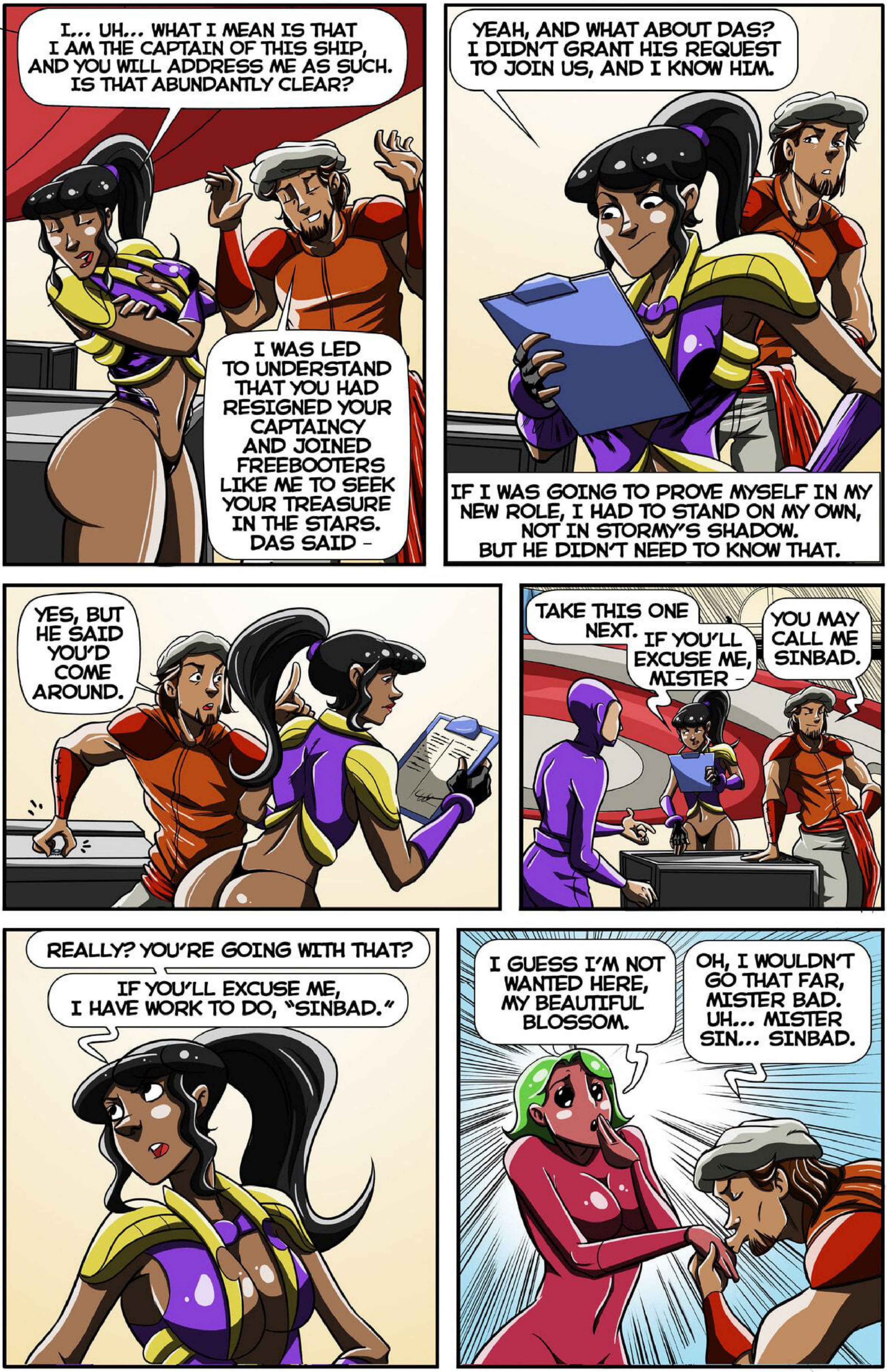

I'M TRANSFERRING CONTROL -
OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT -
TO ME.
SHIPWIDE ALERT: ACTIVATE ESCAPE PODS. ALL HANDS ABANDON SHIP. REPEAT - ALL HANDS ABANDON SHIP!
AELA... COME WITH US!
NO. SOMEONE HAS TO RUN INTERFERENCE SO THE CREW CAN ESCAPE.
THIS ISN'T A MILITARY VESSEL. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE YOU.
IT DOES. NOW GO. SAVE YOURSELF AND KISS THAT HANDSOME HUSBAND OF YOURS FOR ME, OKAY?
OKAY. LET'S GIVE THEM TIME TO GET AWAY.

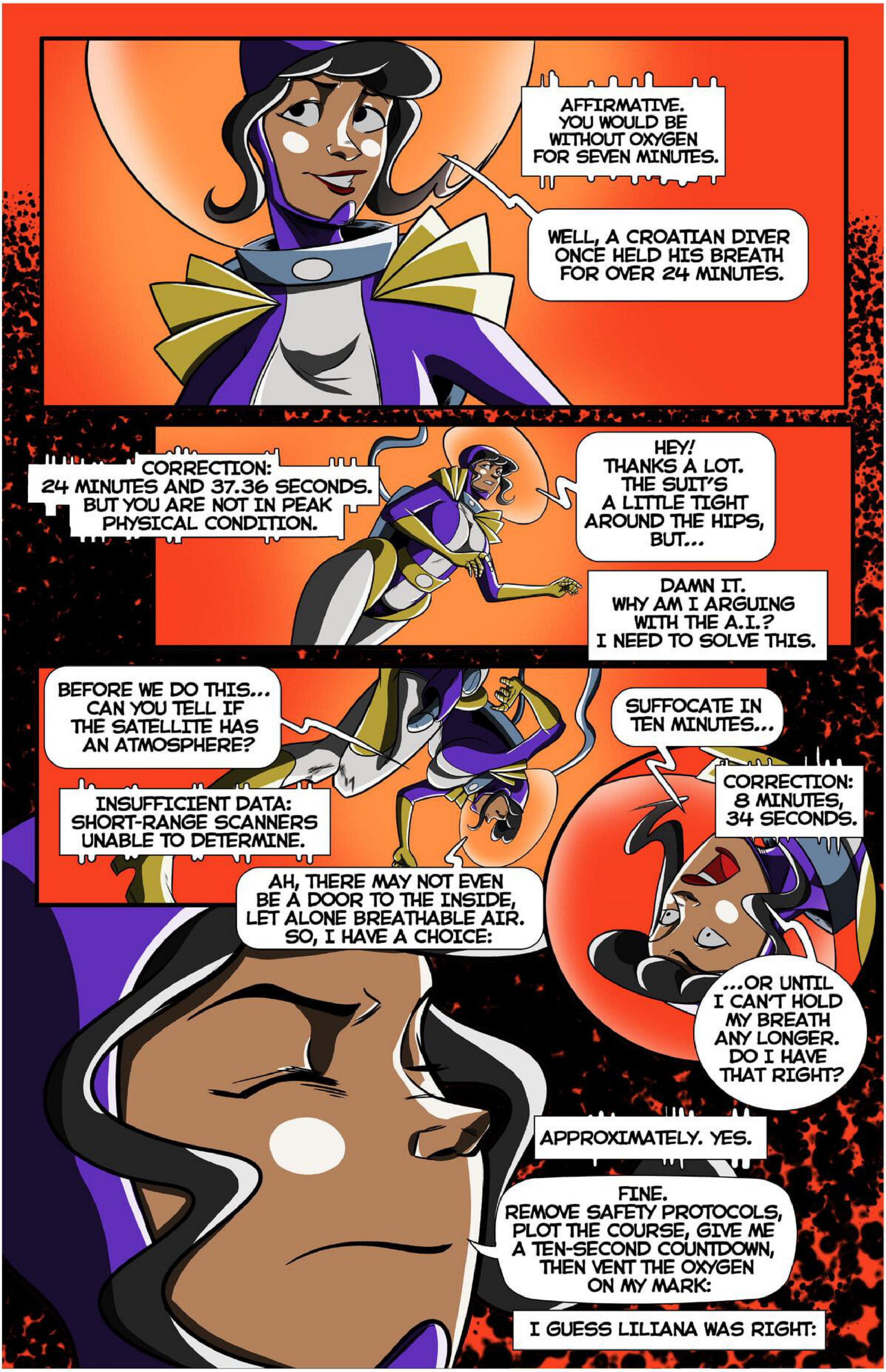

WARNING: ENTERED COORDINATES WILL RESULT IN COLLISION WITH HOSTILE VESSEL
I'M COUNTING ON IT. ARE THE ESCAPE PODS AWAY?
NEGATIVE: ESCAPE POD TWO IS EXPERIENCING MALFUNCTION.
WHAT?
CLAMP THREE IS JAMMED. RECOMMEND EXTERIOR MANUAL RELEASE.
DO WE HAVE ENOUGH ENERGY TO TRANSPORT ME TO THE CLOSEST AIRLOCK TO THE RELEASE?
SPOOLING
VMMM
VMMM
COMPUTER: ONCE I EXIT THE SHIP, GIVE ME 20 SECONDS, LAUNCH THE LOG BUOY, AND ACTIVATE FULL THRUSTERS OR WHATEVER'S LEFT – AT THE FINAL COORDINATES. UNDERSTOOD?
ACKNOWLEDGED.

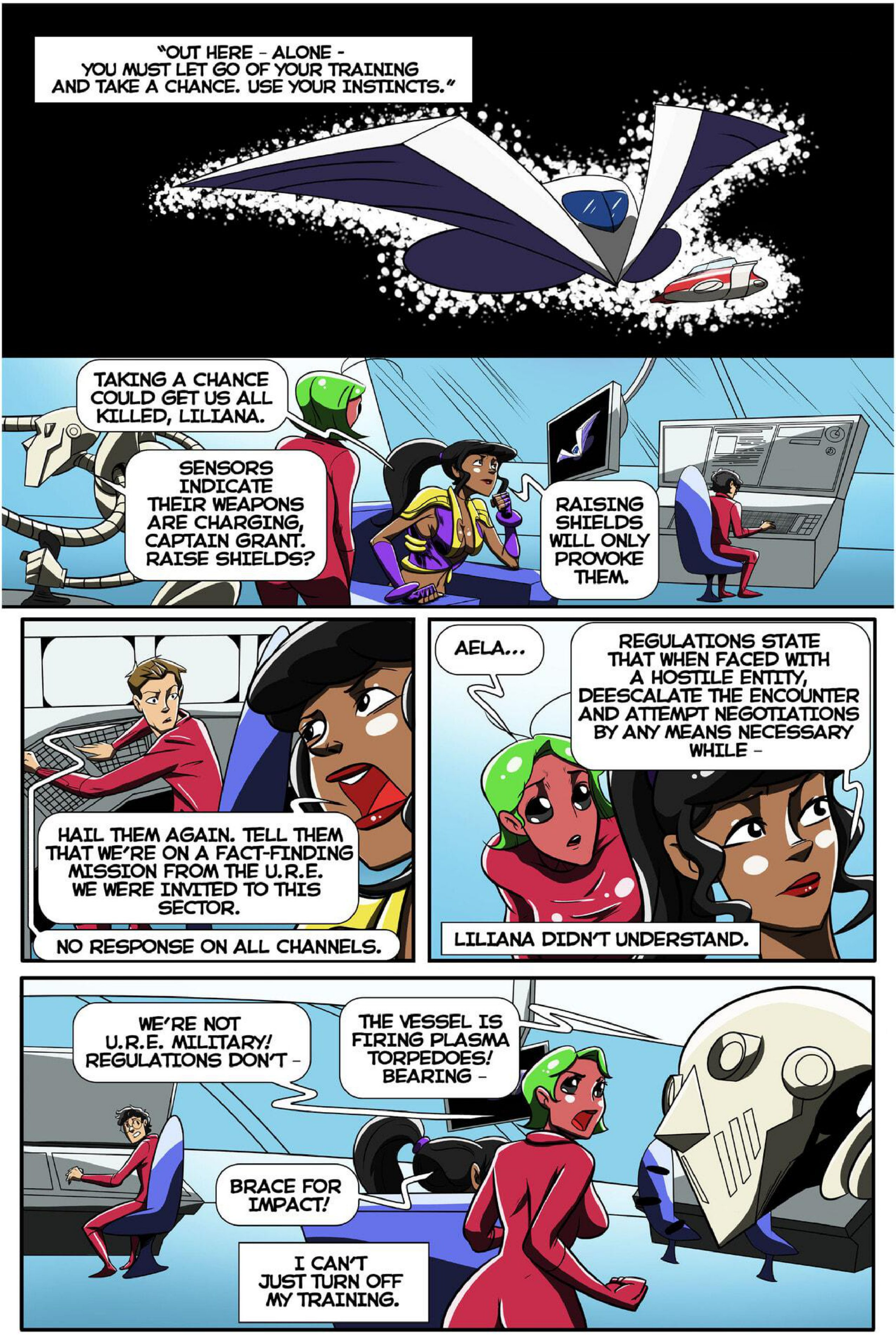

I DON'T CARE IF THIS ISN'T A MILITARY VESSEL. I RECRUITED THESE MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE U.R.E. PUNANIC TO JOIN ME. I DON'T CARE IF THIS ISN'T A MILITARY VESSEL. I RECRUITED THESE MEN AND WOMEN FROM THE U.R.E. PUNANIC TO JOIN ME.
AS SPECIAL CONTRACTORS IN THE U.R.E., WE'RE OPERATING OUTSIDE THE SPACE FORCE MILITARY ARM.
NO BACKUP WAS COMING.
NO ONE EVEN KNOWS WE'RE HERE.
WE'RE ALL ALONE.

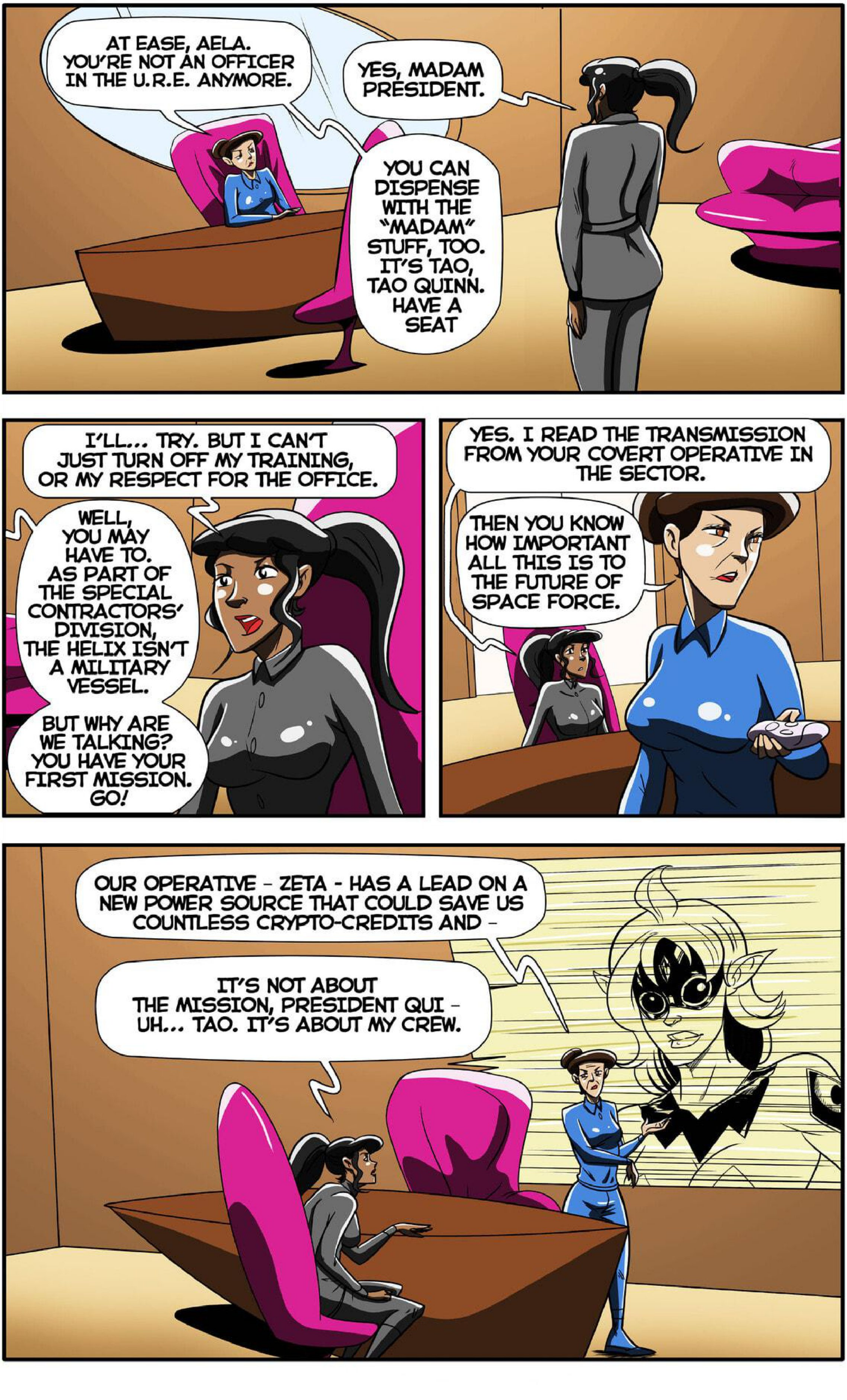

DAYTONA BEACH:
THE UNITED REPUBLIC
OF EARTH HEADQUARTERS
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT ONLY A FEW HOURS AGO, EVERYTHING SEEMED TO BE GOING WELL.
GOT ROOM FOR ONE MORE?
‹ULP!›
TAKE THAT BOX TO MY QUARTERS AND –
WHAT, LILIANA? I'M TRYING TO –
OH. UH... HI
HI YOURSELF, BABE. I CAN'T BELIEVE WE HAVEN'T MET. I'M –

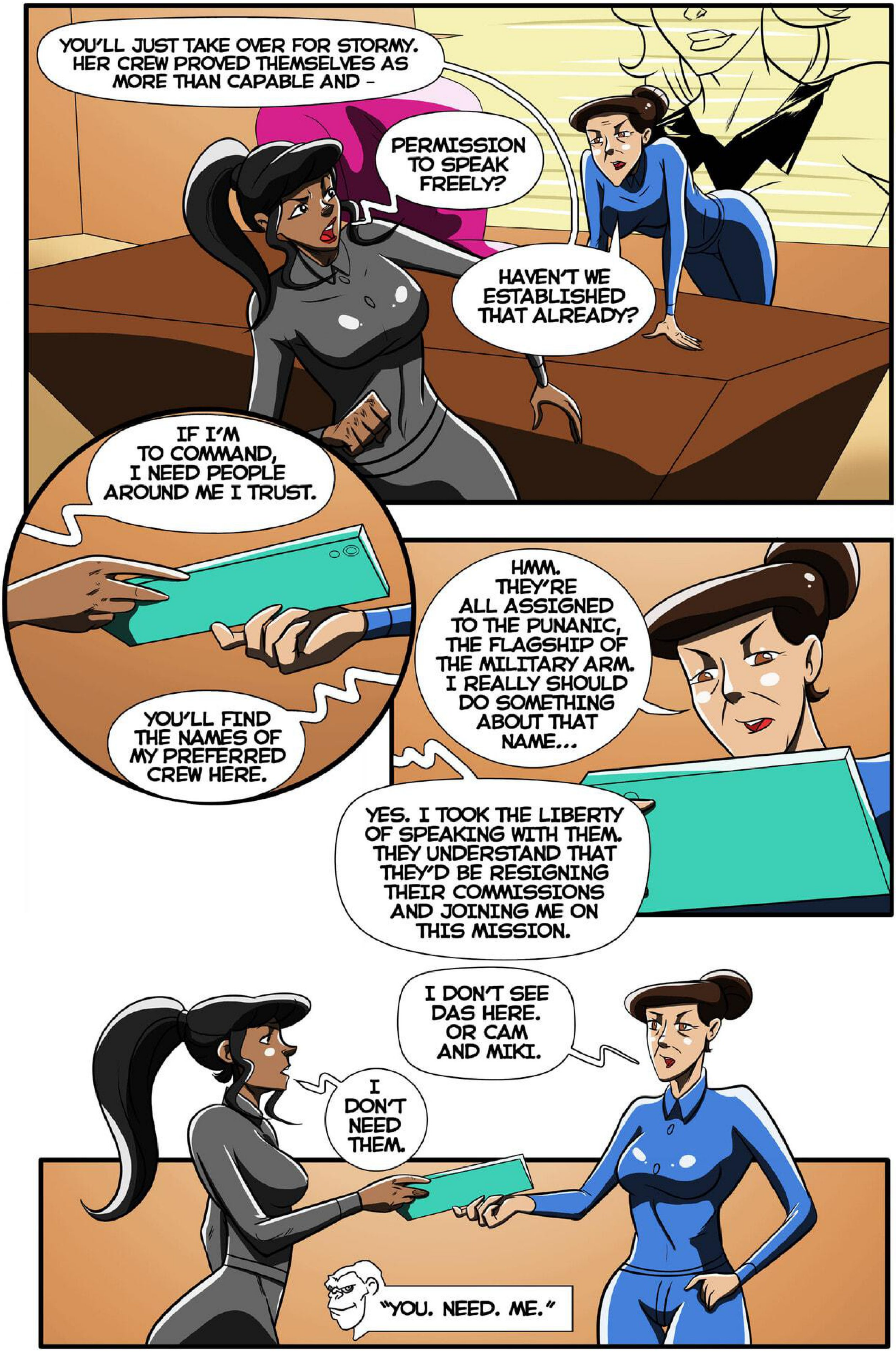

YEAH, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE – YOUR REPUTATION PRECEDES YOU – AND I'VE SEEN THE VIDS. AS YOU CAN SEE, I'M BUSY, SO IF YOU CAN JUST –
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I HAVE BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE HELIX. I'M TO SERVE UNDER YOU – A POSITION I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO, I ASSURE YOU.
NO, NO, YOU'RE NOT.
YOU AND YOUR BEDROOM EYES, FLOWY SHIRT, AND ABS –
ARE THEY EVEN REAL? HE LOOKS AIRBRUSHED.
AREN'T STEPPING ONTO MY SHIP. MY NUMBER ONE DOESN'T NEED THE DISTRACTION.
BUT I MUST! I AM POSSESSED WITH THE THOUGHT OF TRAVELING ABOUT A GALAXY BRIMMING WITH SENTIENTS AND SEEING THEIR PLANETS AND OUTPOSTS, SAMPLING THEIR CUISINE –
AND WOMEN, NO DOUBT –
<TSK!> PERHAPS THEIR MEN, TOO. SEE?
YOU DON'T KNOW ME.
DAS TOLD ME YOU WOULD PROVE DIFFICULT. I LIKE THAT IN MY WOMEN.
I AM NOT A WOMAN!
I BEG TO DIFFER.

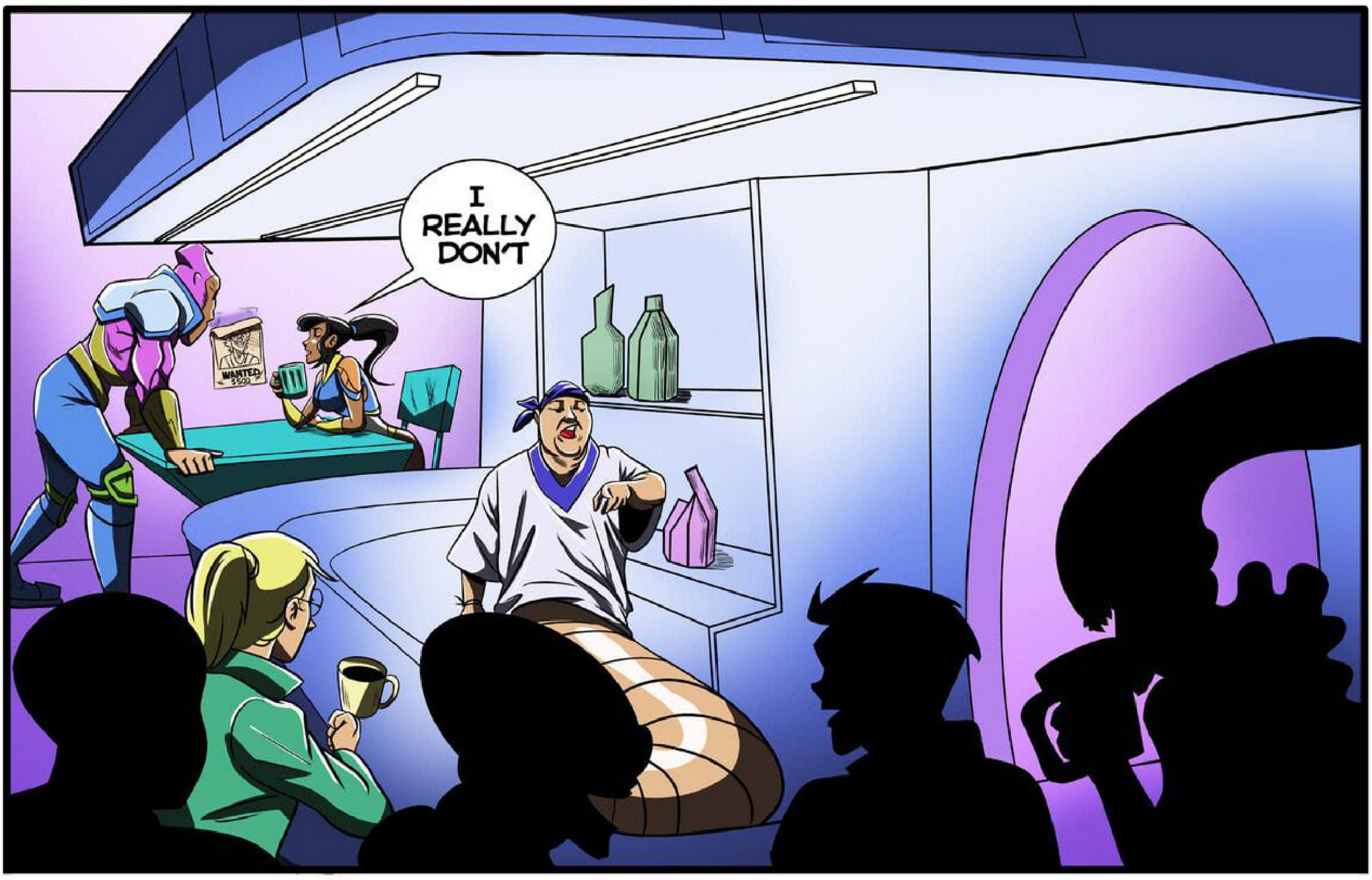

I... UH... WHAT I MEAN IS THAT I AM THE CAPTAIN OF THIS SHIP, AND YOU WILL ADDRESS ME AS SUCH. IS THAT ABUNDANTLY CLEAR?
I WAS LED TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAD RESIGNED YOUR CAPTAINCY AND JOINED FREEBOOTERS LIKE ME TO SEEK YOUR TREASURE IN THE STARS. DAS SAID –
YEAH, AND WHAT ABOUT DAS? I DIDN'T GRANT HIS REQUEST TO JOIN US, AND I KNOW HIM.
IF I WAS GOING TO PROVE MYSELF IN MY NEW ROLE, I HAD TO STAND ON MY OWN, NOT IN STORMY'S SHADOW. BUT HE DIDN'T NEED TO KNOW THAT.
YES, BUT HE SAID YOU'D COME AROUND.
TAKE THIS ONE NEXT.
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, MISTER –
YOU MAY CALL ME SINBAD.
REALLY? YOU'RE GOING WITH THAT?
IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE WORK TO DO, "SINBAD."
I GUESS I'M NOT WANTED HERE, MY BEAUTIFUL BLOSSOM.
OH, I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR, MISTER BAD. UH... MISTER SIN... SINBAD.

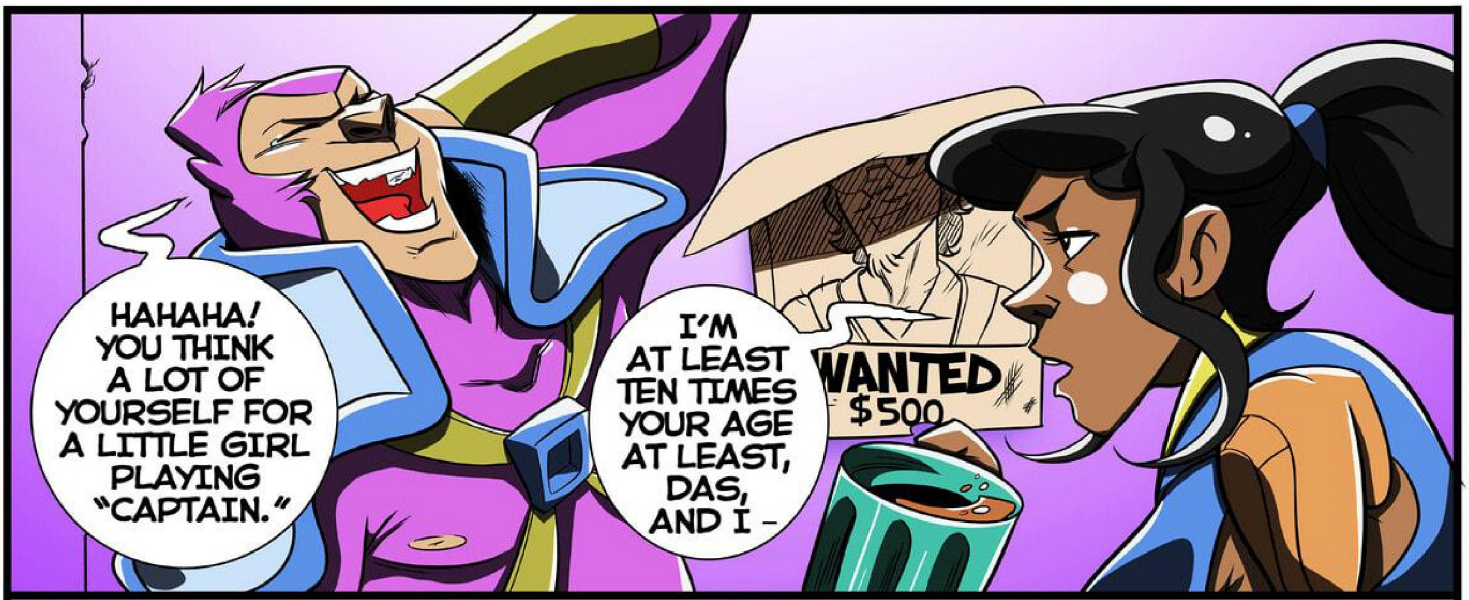

AFFIRMATIVE. YOU WOULD BE WITHOUT OXYGEN FOR SEVEN MINUTES.
WELL, A CROATIAN DIVER ONCE HELD HIS BREATH FOR OVER 24 MINUTES.
CORRECTION: 24 MINUTES AND 37.36 SECONDS. BUT YOU ARE NOT IN PEAK PHYSICAL CONDITION.
HEY! THANKS A LOT. THE SUIT'S A LITTLE TIGHT AROUND THE HIPS, BUT...
DAMN IT. WHY AM I ARGUING WITH THE A.I.? I NEED TO SOLVE THIS.
BEFORE WE DO THIS... CAN YOU TELL IF THE SATELLITE HAS AN ATMOSPHERE?
INSUFFICIENT DATA: SHORT-RANGE SCANNERS UNABLE TO DETERMINE.
AH, THERE MAY NOT EVEN BE A DOOR TO THE INSIDE, LET ALONE BREATHABLE AIR. SO, I HAVE A CHOICE:
SUFFOCATE IN TEN MINUTES...
CORRECTION: 8 MINUTES, 34 SECONDS.
...OR UNTIL I CAN'T HOLD MY BREATH ANY LONGER. DO I HAVE THAT RIGHT?
APPROXIMATELY. YES.
FINE. REMOVE SAFETY PROTOCOLS, PLOT THE COURSE, GIVE ME A TEN-SECOND COUNTDOWN, THEN VENT THE OXYGEN ON MY MARK:
I GUESS LILIANA WAS RIGHT:

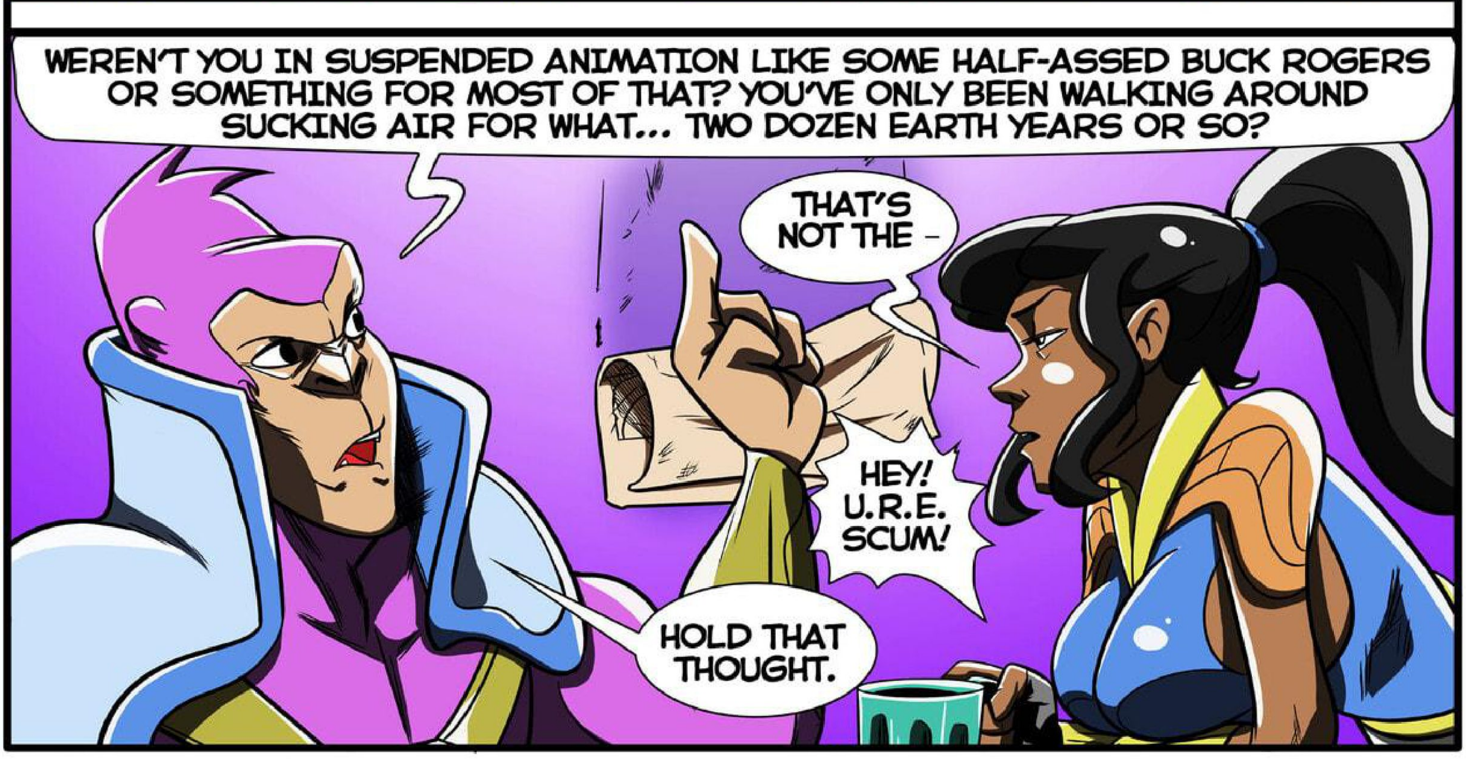

"OUT HERE - ALONE - YOU MUST LET GO OF YOUR TRAINING AND TAKE A CHANCE. USE YOUR INSTINCTS."
TAKING A CHANCE COULD GET US ALL KILLED, LILIANA.
SENSORS INDICATE THEIR WEAPONS ARE CHARGING, CAPTAIN GRANT. RAISE SHIELDS?
RAISING SHIELDS WILL ONLY PROVOKE THEM.
HAIL THEM AGAIN. TELL THEM THAT WE'RE ON A FACT-FINDING MISSION FROM THE U.R.E. WE WERE INVITED TO THIS SECTOR.
NO RESPONSE ON ALL CHANNELS.
AELA...
REGULATIONS STATE THAT WHEN FACED WITH A HOSTILE ENTITY, DEESCALATE THE ENCOUNTER AND ATTEMPT NEGOTIATIONS BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY WHILE –
LILIANA DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
WE'RE NOT U.R.E. MILITARY! REGULATIONS DON'T –
THE VESSEL IS FIRING PLASMA TORPEDOES! BEARING –
BRACE FOR IMPACT!
I CAN'T JUST TURN OFF MY TRAINING.

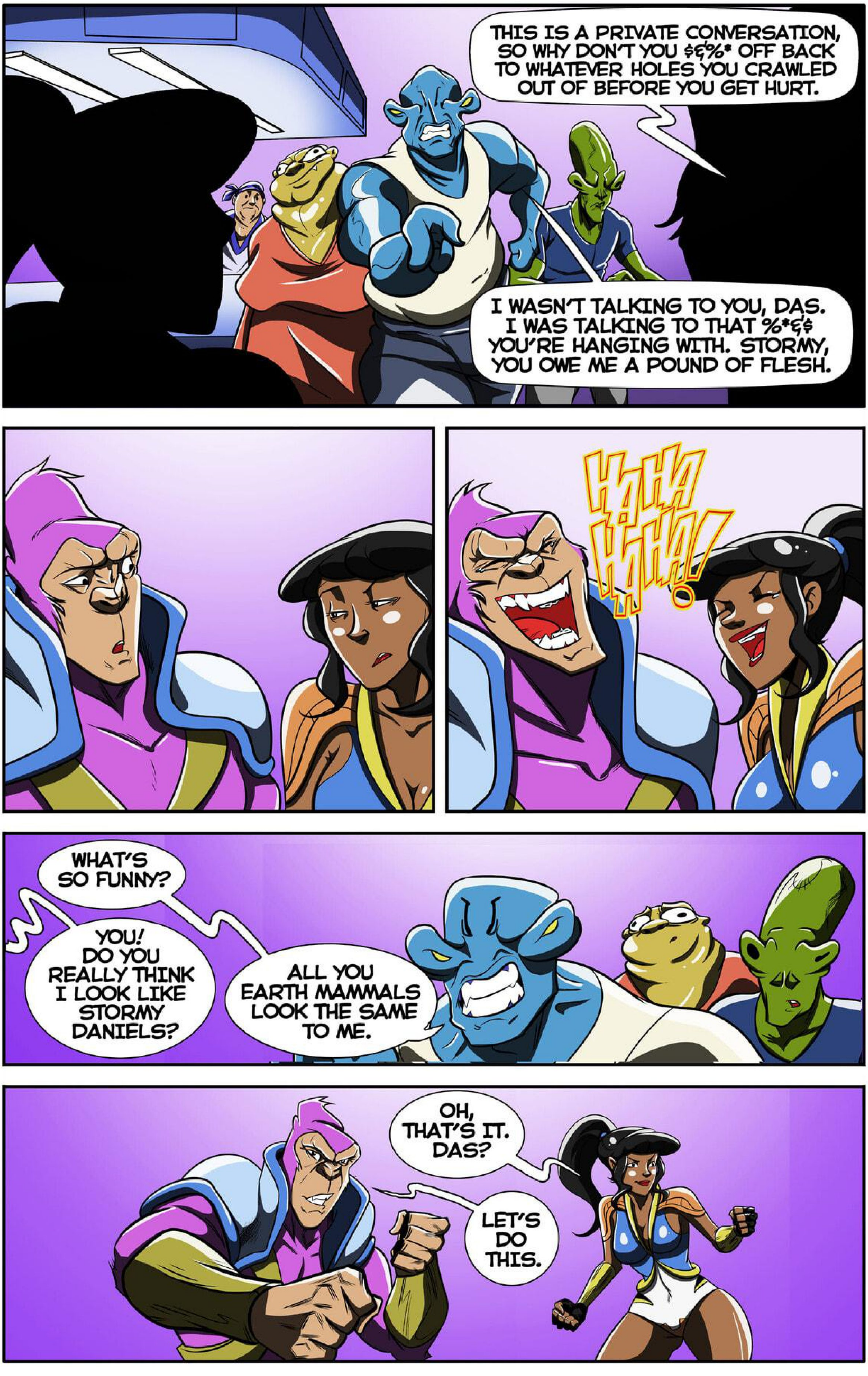

AT EASE, AELA. YOU'RE NOT AN OFFICER IN THE U.R.E. ANYMORE.
YES, MADAM PRESIDENT.
YOU CAN DISPENSE WITH THE "MADAM" STUFF, TOO. IT'S TAO, TAO QUINN. HAVE A SEAT
I'LL... TRY. BUT I CAN'T JUST TURN OFF MY TRAINING, OR MY RESPECT FOR THE OFFICE.
WELL, YOU MAY HAVE TO. AS PART OF THE SPECIAL CONTRACTORS' DIVISION, THE HELIX ISN'T A MILITARY VESSEL.
BUT WHY ARE WE TALKING? YOU HAVE YOUR FIRST MISSION. GO!
YES. I READ THE TRANSMISSION FROM YOUR COVERT OPERATIVE IN THE SECTOR.
THEN YOU KNOW HOW IMPORTANT ALL THIS IS TO THE FUTURE OF SPACE FORCE.
OUR OPERATIVE – ZETA – HAS A LEAD ON A NEW POWER SOURCE THAT COULD SAVE US COUNTLESS CRYPTO-CREDITS AND –
IT'S NOT ABOUT THE MISSION, PRESIDENT QUI – UH... TAO. IT'S ABOUT MY CREW.

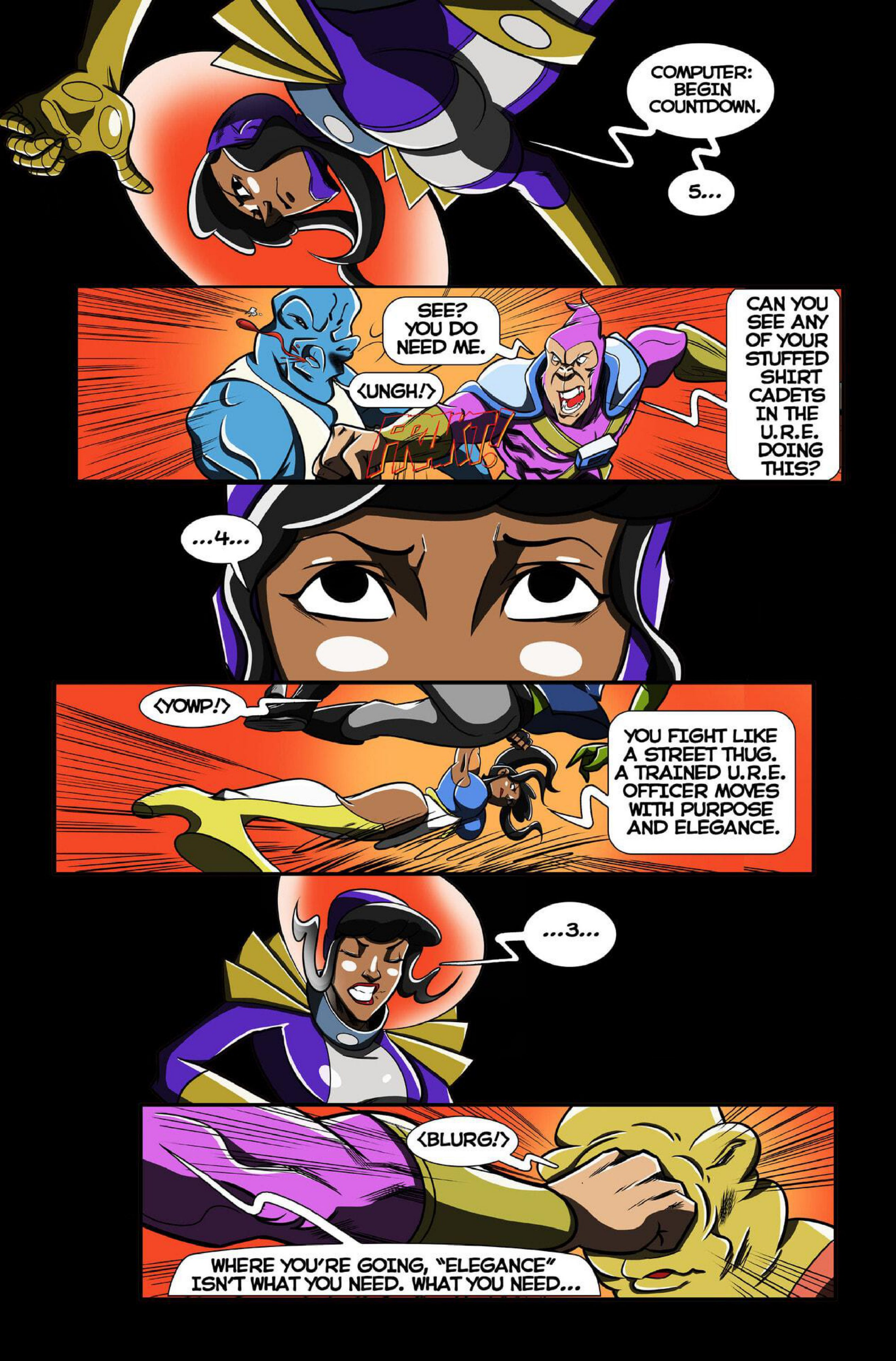

YOU'LL JUST TAKE OVER FOR STORMY. HER CREW PROVED THEMSELVES AS MORE THAN CAPABLE AND –
PERMISSION TO SPEAK FREELY?
HAVEN'T WE ESTABLISHED THAT ALREADY?
IF I'M TO COMMAND, I NEED PEOPLE AROUND ME I TRUST.
YOU'LL FIND THE NAMES OF MY PREFERRED CREW HERE.
HMM. THEY'RE ALL ASSIGNED TO THE PUNANIC, THE FLAGSHIP OF THE MILITARY ARM. I REALLY SHOULD DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT NAME...
YES. I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF SPEAKING WITH THEM. THEY UNDERSTAND THAT THEY'D BE RESIGNING THEIR COMMISSIONS AND JOINING ME ON THIS MISSION.
I DON'T SEE DAS HERE. OR CAM AND MIKI.
I DON'T NEED THEM.
"YOU. NEED. ME."

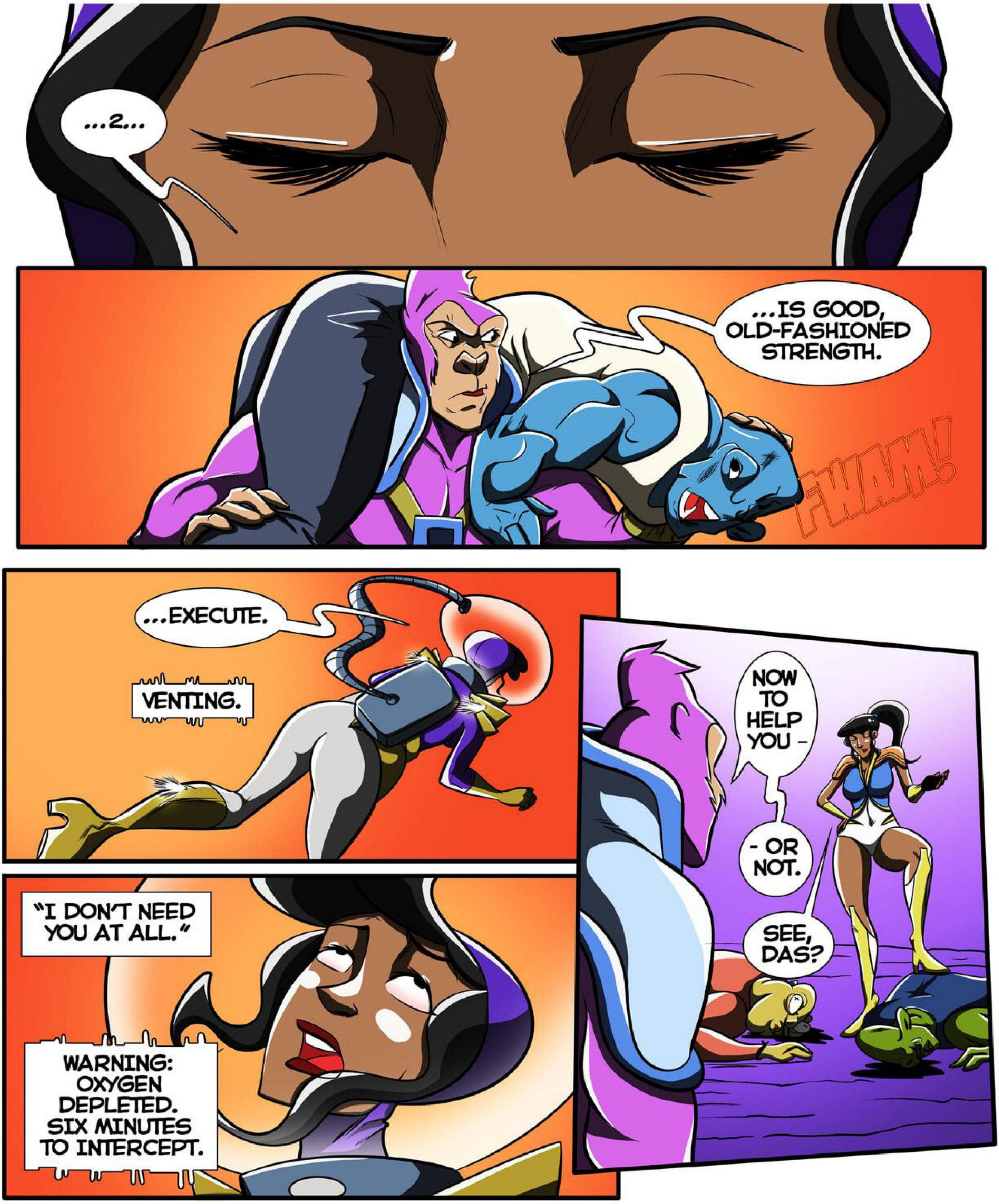

WANTED $500
I REALLY DON'T


HAHAHA! YOU THINK A LOT OF YOURSELF FOR A LITTLE GIRL PLAYING "CAPTAIN."
I'M AT LEAST TEN TIMES YOUR AGE AT LEAST, DAS, AND I –
WANTED $500

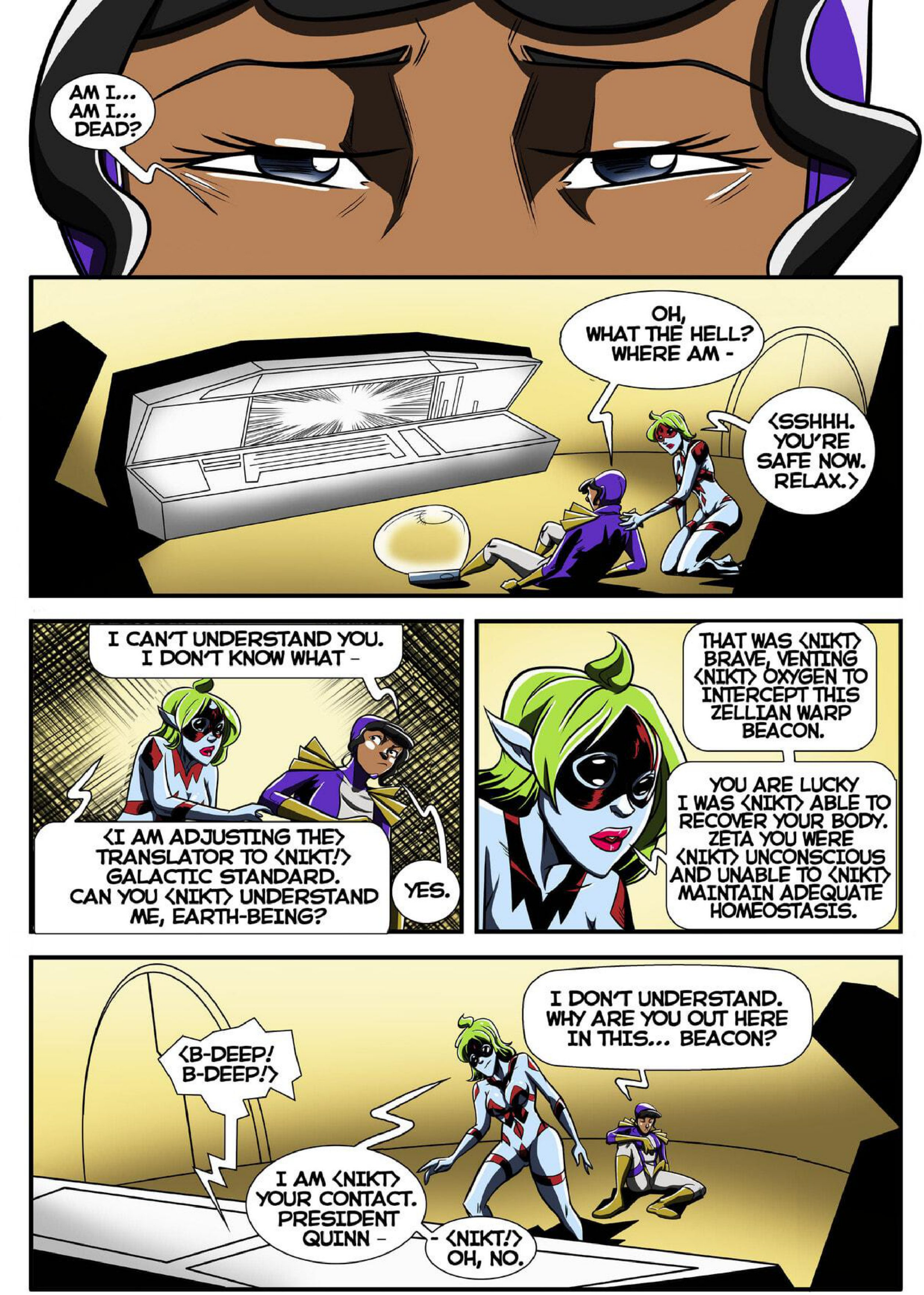

WEREN'T YOU IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION LIKE SOME HALF-ASSED BUCK ROGERS OR SOMETHING FOR MOST OF THAT? YOU'VE ONLY BEEN WALKING AROUND SUCKING AIR FOR WHAT... TWO DOZEN EARTH YEARS OR SO?
THAT'S NOT THE –
HEY! U.R.E. SCUM!
HOLD THAT THOUGHT.

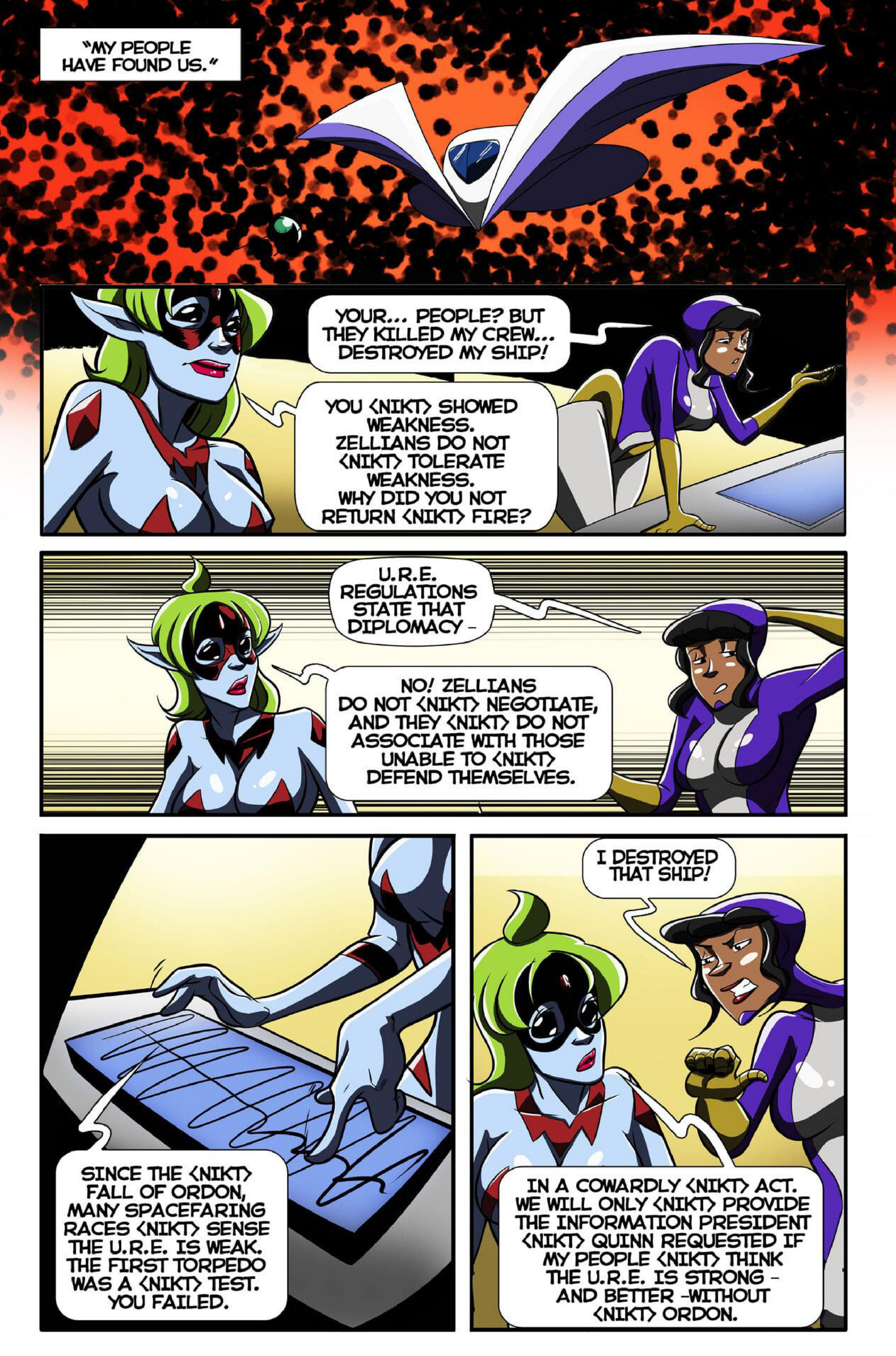

THIS IS A PRIVATE CONVERSATION, SO WHY DON'T YOU $&%* OFF BACK TO WHATEVER HOLES YOU CRAWLED OUT OF BEFORE YOU GET HURT.
I WASN'T TALKING TO YOU, DAS. I WAS TALKING TO THAT %*&$ YOU'RE HANGING WITH. STORMY, YOU OWE ME A POUND OF FLESH.
HAHA HAHA!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
YOU! DO YOU REALLY THINK I LOOK LIKE STORMY DANIELS?
ALL YOU EARTH MAMMALS LOOK THE SAME TO ME.
OH, THAT'S IT. DAS?
LET'S DO THIS.

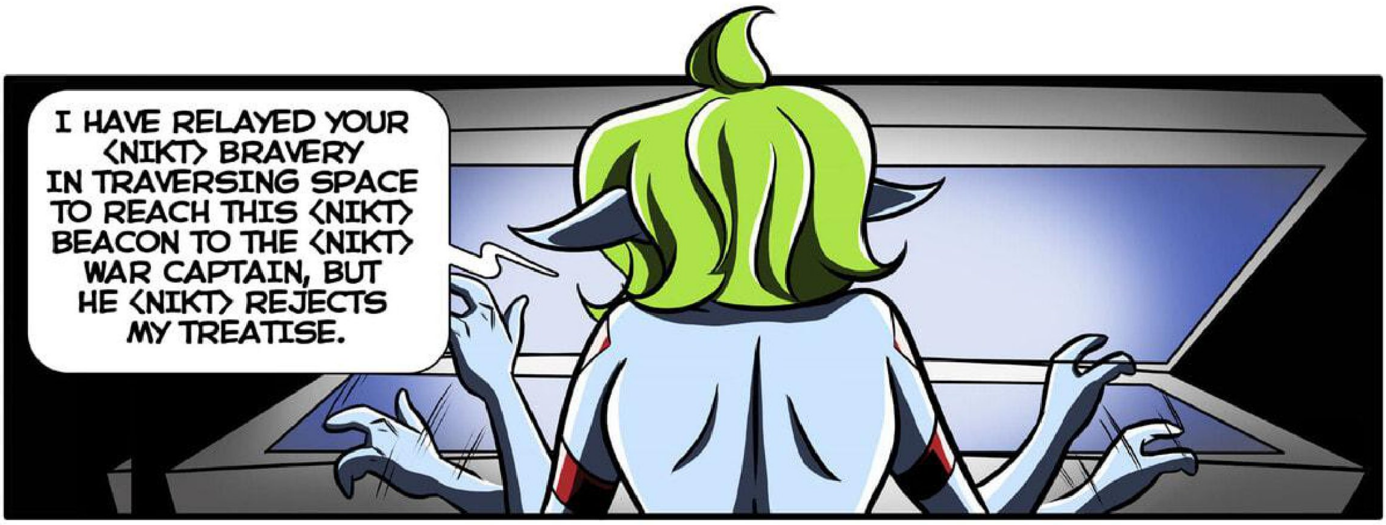

COMPUTER: BEGIN COUNTDOWN.
5...
SEE? YOU DO NEED ME.
<UNGH!>
CAN YOU SEE ANY OF YOUR STUFFED SHIRT CADETS IN THE U.R.E. DOING THIS?
...4...
<YOWP!>
YOU FIGHT LIKE A STREET THUG. A TRAINED U.R.E. OFFICER MOVES WITH PURPOSE AND ELEGANCE.
...3...
<BLURG!>
WHERE YOU'RE GOING, "ELEGANCE" ISN'T WHAT YOU NEED. WHAT YOU NEED...

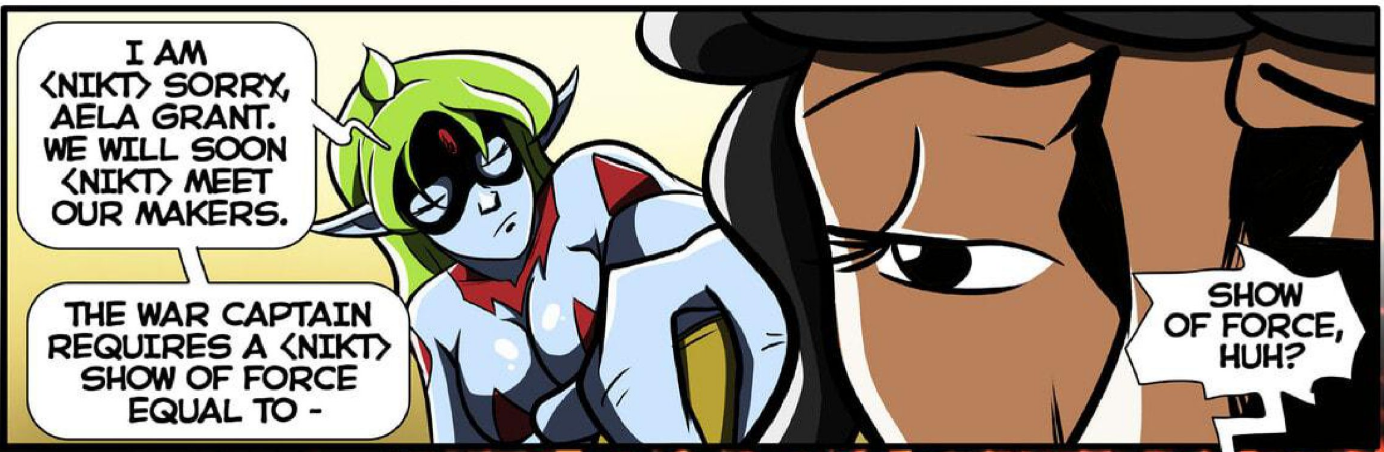

...2...
...IS GOOD, OLD-FASHIONED STRENGTH.
FWAM!
...EXECUTE.
VENTING.
"I DON'T NEED YOU AT ALL."
WARNING: OXYGEN DEPLETED. SIX MINUTES TO INTERCEPT.
NOW TO HELP YOU –
– OR NOT.
SEE, DAS?

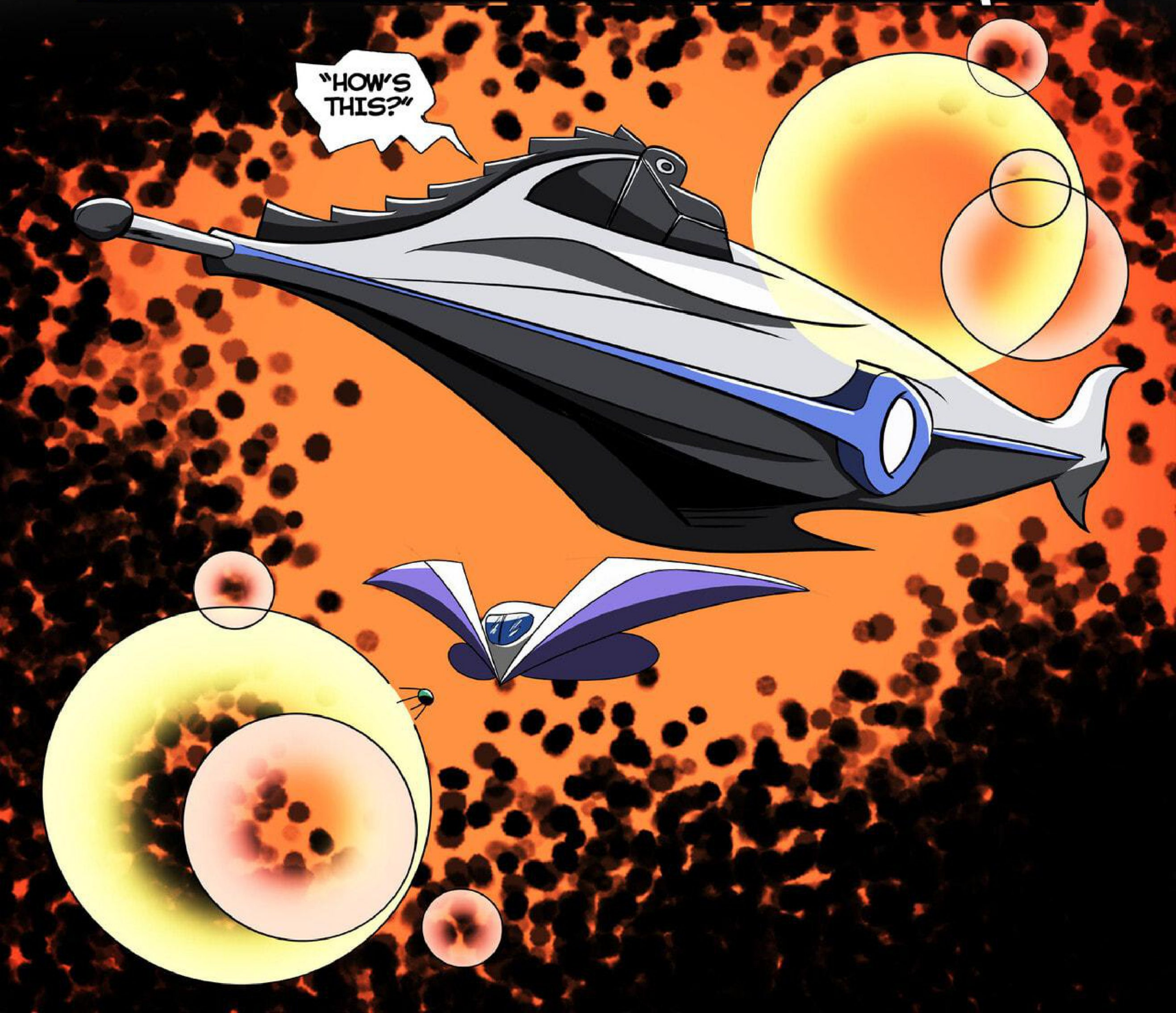
[redacted]

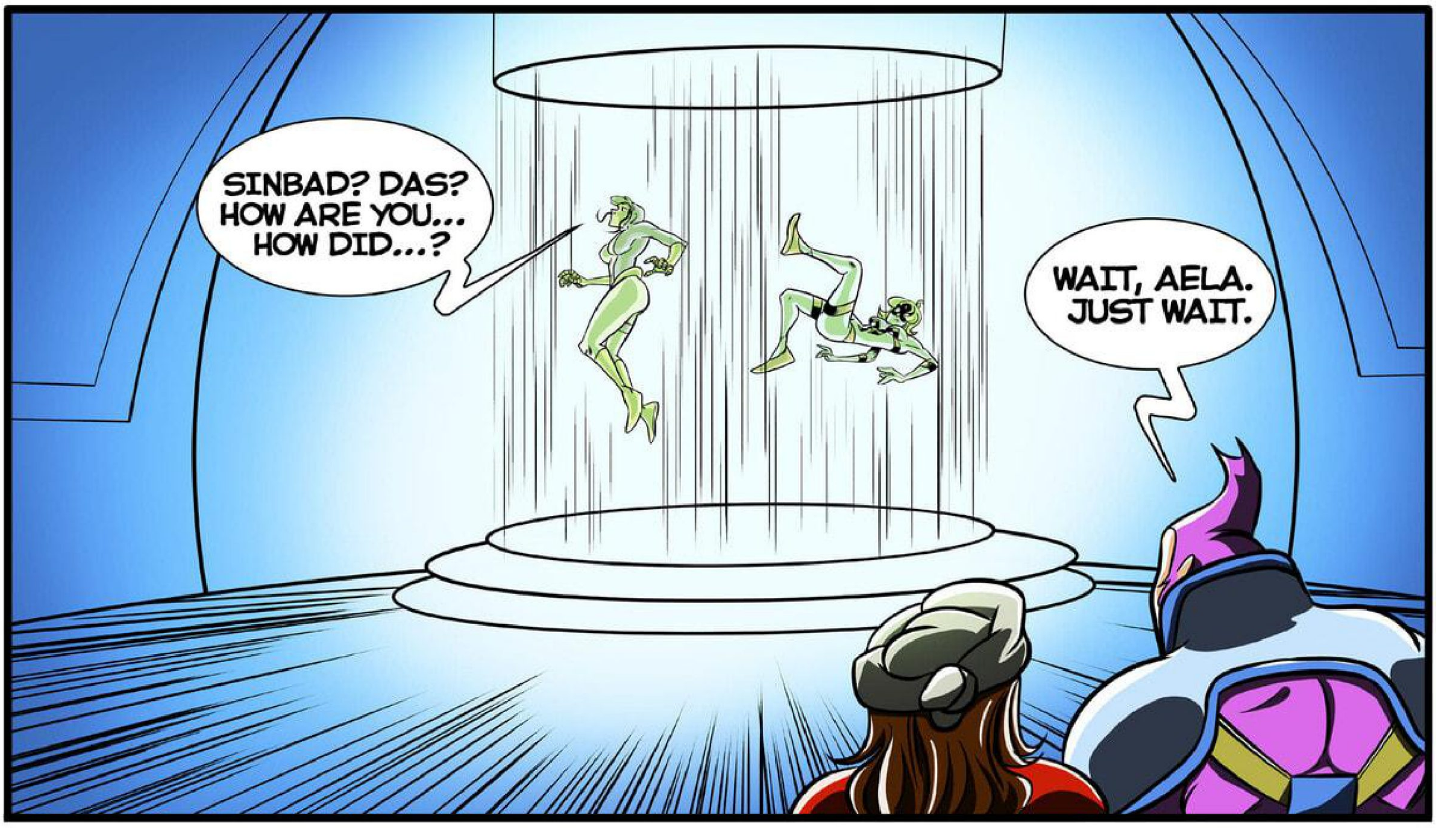

AM I... AM I... DEAD?
OH, WHAT THE HELL? WHERE AM -
<SSHHH. YOU'RE SAFE NOW. RELAX.>
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU. I DON'T KNOW WHAT -
<I AM ADJUSTING THE> TRANSLATOR TO <NIKT!> GALACTIC STANDARD. CAN YOU <NIKT> UNDERSTAND ME, EARTH-BEING?
YES.
THAT WAS <NIKT> BRAVE, VENTING <NIKT> OXYGEN TO INTERCEPT THIS ZELLIAN WARP BEACON.
YOU ARE LUCKY I WAS <NIKT> ABLE TO RECOVER YOUR BODY. ZETA YOU WERE <NIKT> UNCONSCIOUS AND UNABLE TO <NIKT> MAINTAIN ADEQUATE HOMEOSTASIS.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. WHY ARE YOU OUT HERE IN THIS... BEACON?
<B-DEEP! B-DEEP!>
I AM <NIKT> YOUR CONTACT. PRESIDENT QUINN -
- <NIKT!> OH, NO.

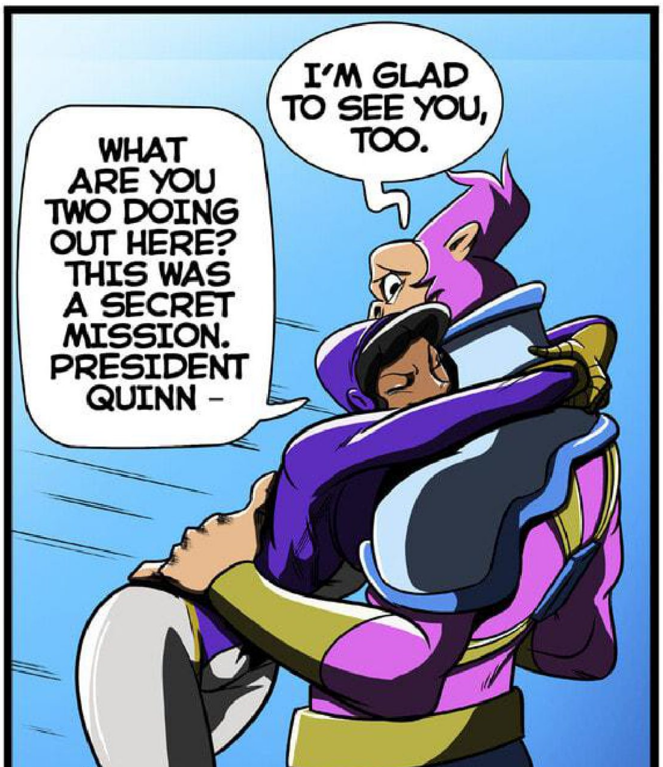

"MY PEOPLE HAVE FOUND US."
YOUR... PEOPLE? BUT THEY KILLED MY CREW... DESTROYED MY SHIP!
YOU <NIKT> SHOWED WEAKNESS. ZELLIANS DO NOT <NIKT> TOLERATE WEAKNESS. WHY DID YOU NOT RETURN <NIKT> FIRE?
U.R.E. REGULATIONS STATE THAT DIPLOMACY –
NO! ZELLIANS DO NOT <NIKT> NEGOTIATE, AND THEY <NIKT> DO NOT ASSOCIATE WITH THOSE UNABLE TO <NIKT> DEFEND THEMSELVES.
SINCE THE <NIKT> FALL OF ORDON, MANY SPACEFARING RACES <NIKT> SENSE THE U.R.E. IS WEAK. THE FIRST TORPEDO WAS A <NIKT> TEST. YOU FAILED.
I DESTROYED THAT SHIP!
IN A COWARDLY <NIKT> ACT. WE WILL ONLY <NIKT> PROVIDE THE INFORMATION PRESIDENT <NIKT> QUINN REQUESTED IF MY PEOPLE <NIKT> THINK THE U.R.E. IS STRONG – AND BETTER –WITHOUT <NIKT> ORDON.

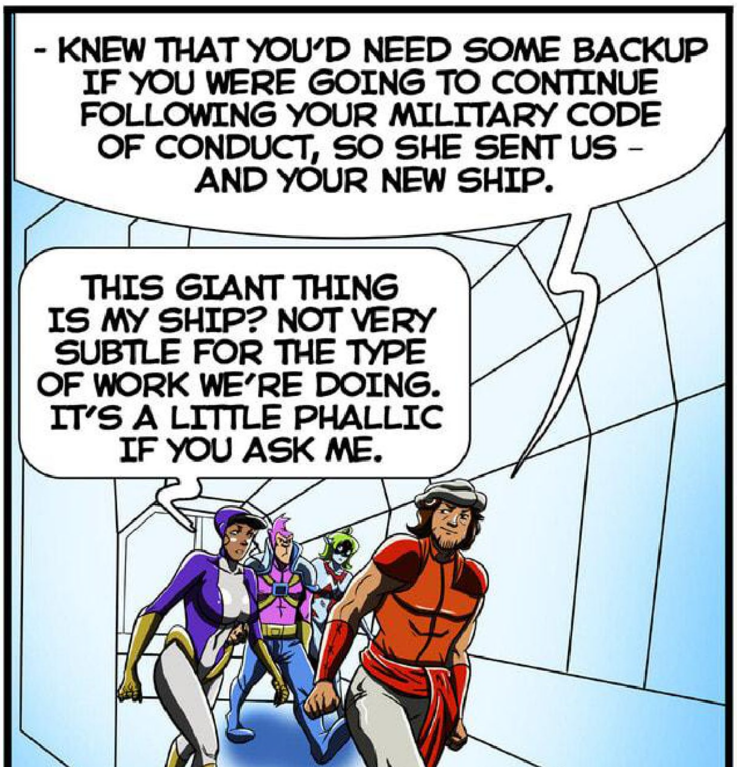

I HAVE RELAYED YOUR <NIKT> BRAVERY IN TRAVERSING SPACE TO REACH THIS <NIKT> BEACON TO THE <NIKT> WAR CAPTAIN, BUT HE <NIKT> REJECTS MY TREATISE.

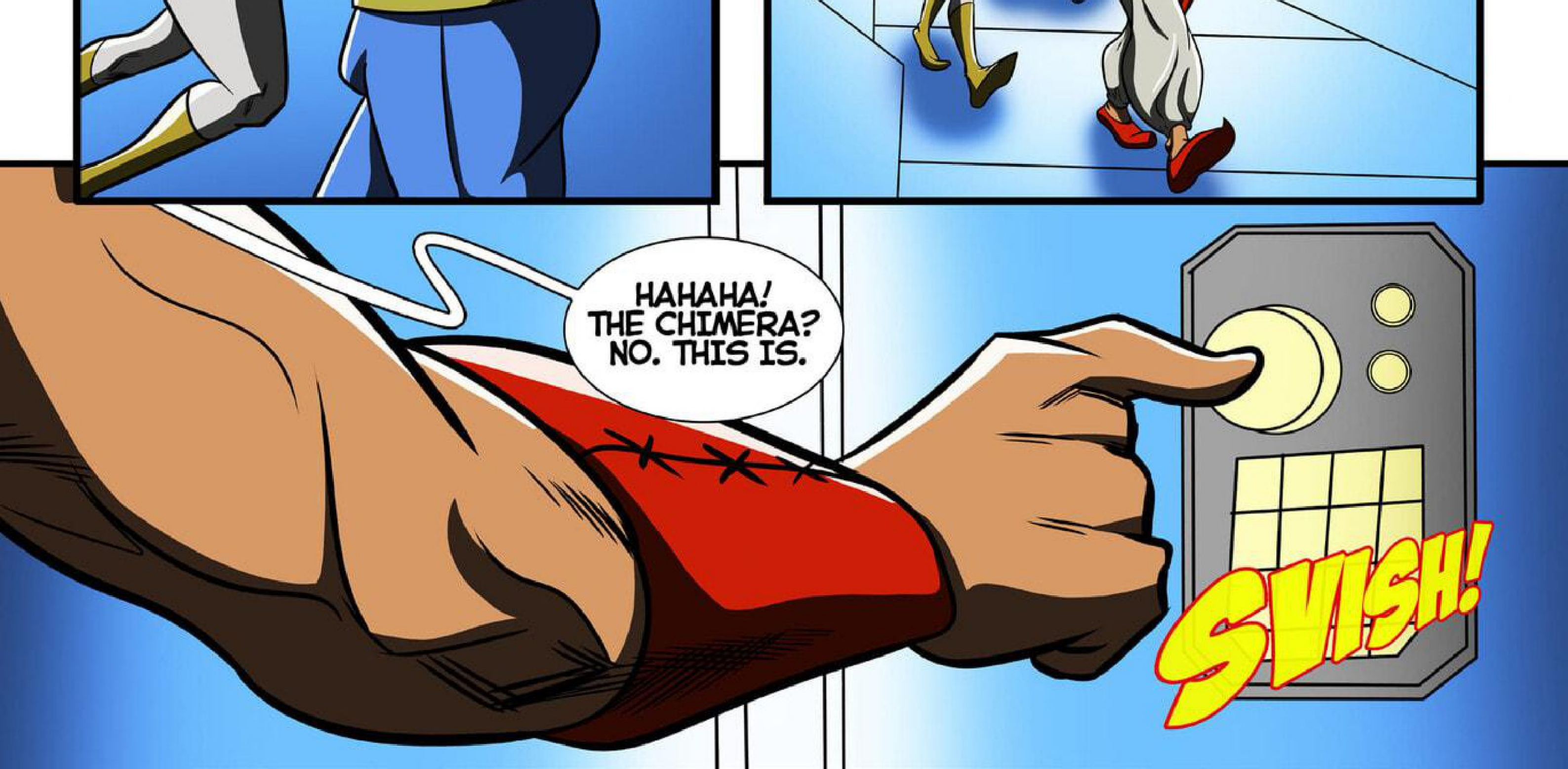

I AM <NIKT> SORRY, AELA GRANT. WE WILL SOON <NIKT> MEET OUR MAKERS.
THE WAR CAPTAIN REQUIRES A <NIKT> SHOW OF FORCE EQUAL TO -
SHOW OF FORCE, HUH?

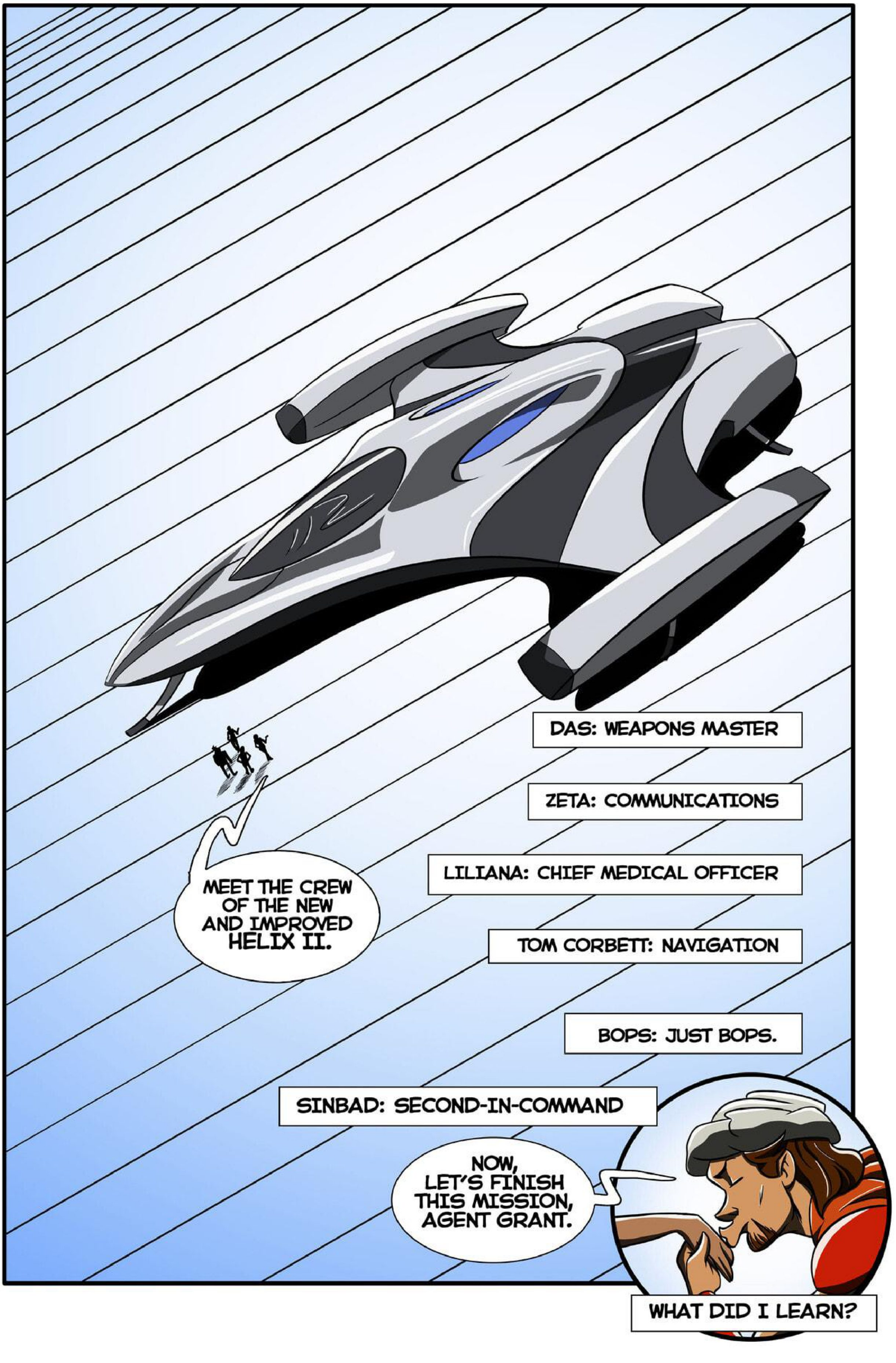

"HOW'S THIS?"

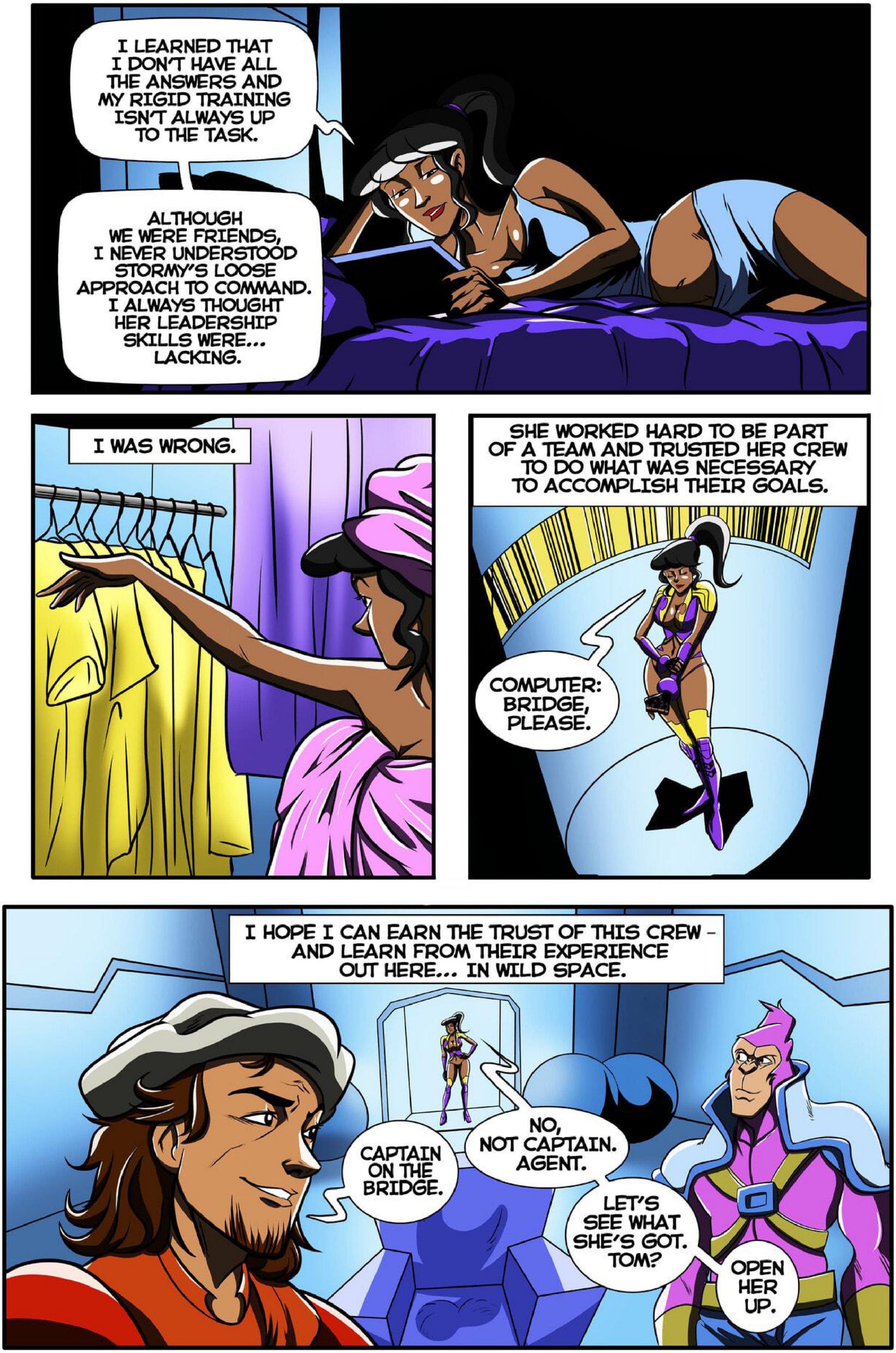

SINBAD? DAS? HOW ARE YOU... HOW DID...?
WAIT, AELA. JUST WAIT.


I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU, TOO.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING OUT HERE? THIS WAS A SECRET MISSION. PRESIDENT QUINN –

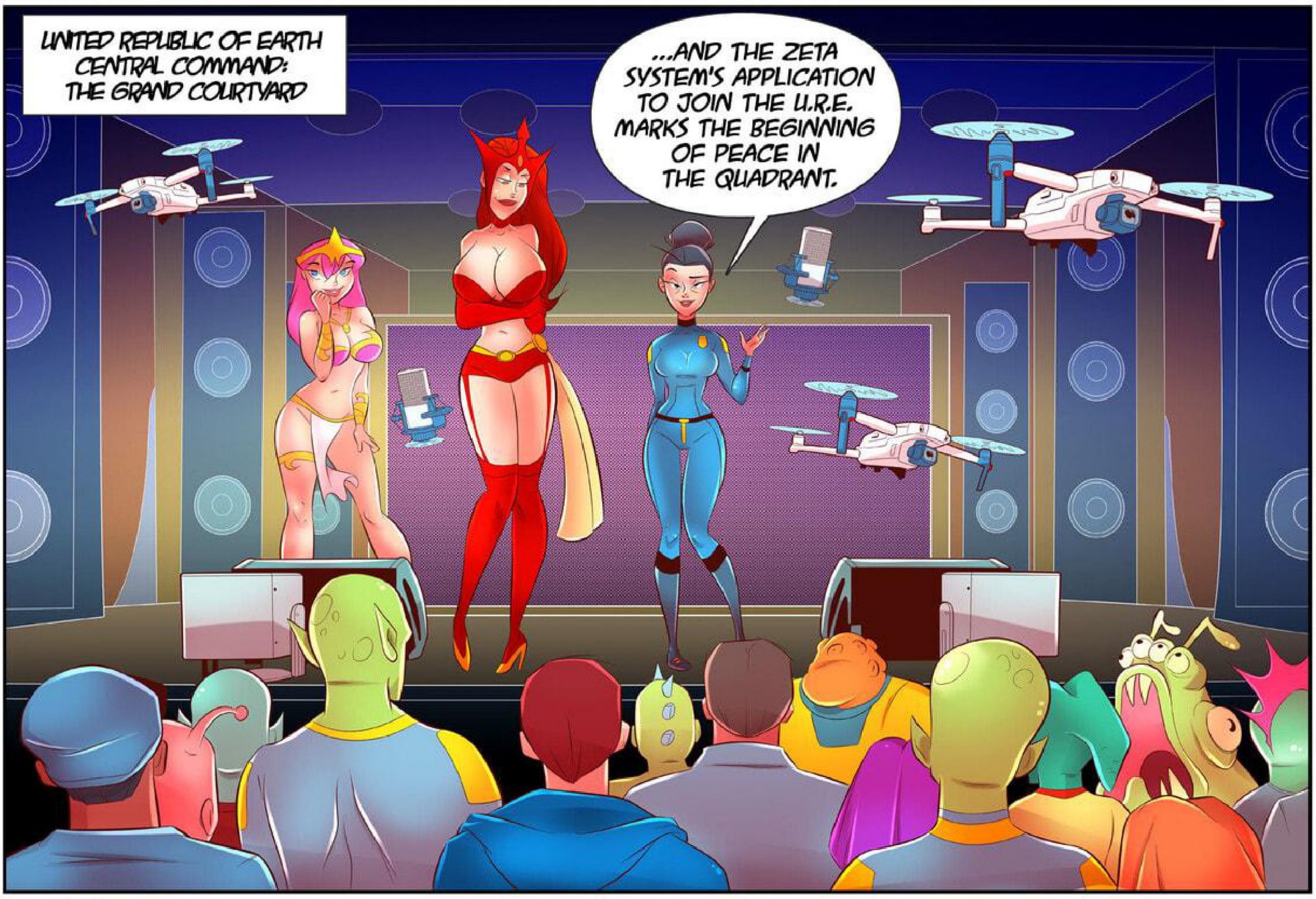

– KNEW THAT YOU'D NEED SOME BACKUP IF YOU WERE GOING TO CONTINUE FOLLOWING YOUR MILITARY CODE OF CONDUCT, SO SHE SENT US – AND YOUR NEW SHIP.
THIS GIANT THING IS MY SHIP? NOT VERY SUBTLE FOR THE TYPE OF WORK WE'RE DOING. IT'S A LITTLE PHALLIC IF YOU ASK ME.

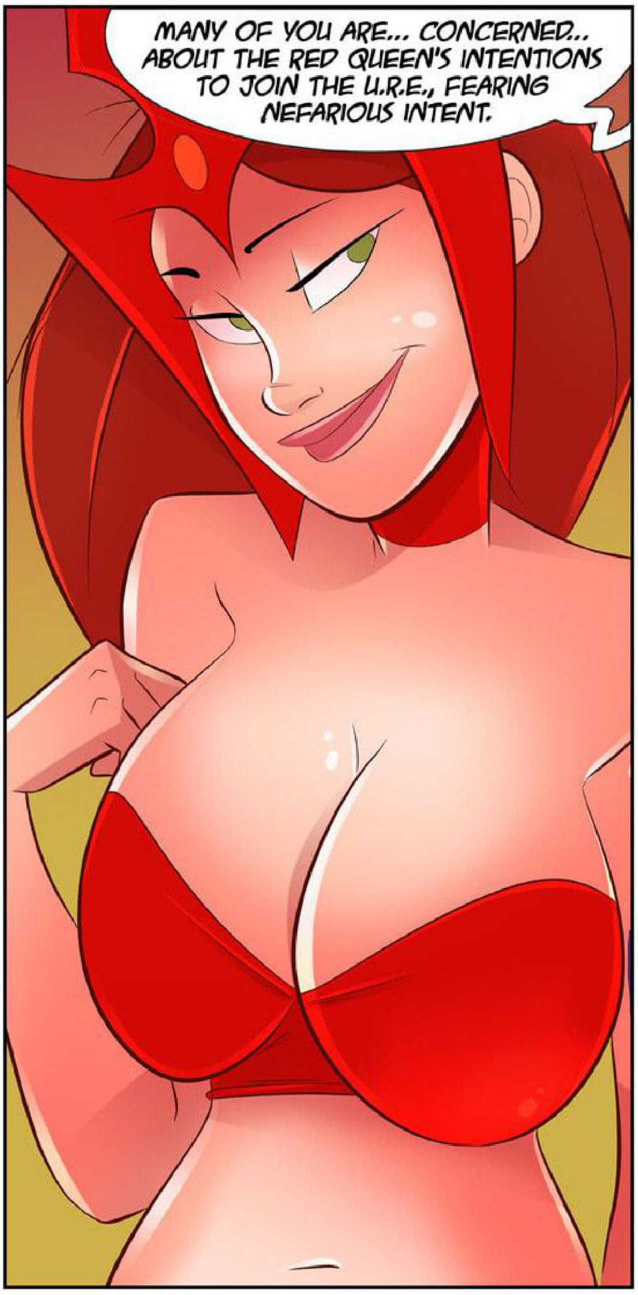

HAHAHA! THE CHIMERA? NO. THIS IS.
SVISH!

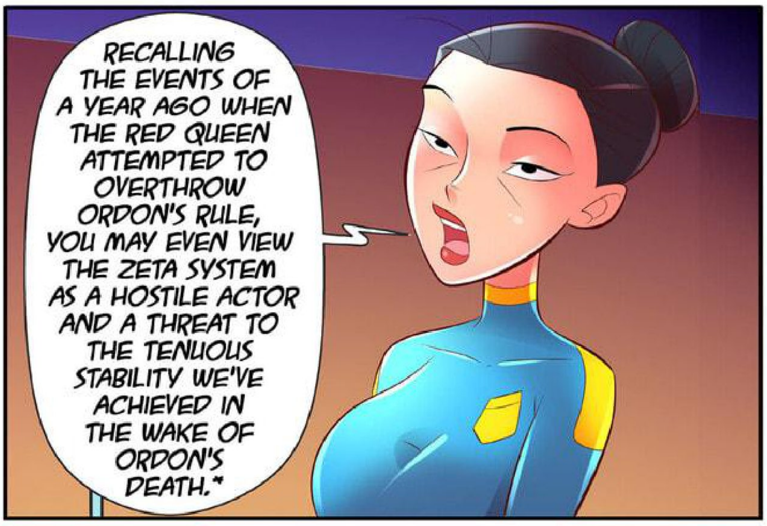

MEET THE CREW OF THE NEW AND IMPROVED HELIX II.
DAS: WEAPONS MASTER
ZETA: COMMUNICATIONS
LILIANA: CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER
TOM CORBETT: NAVIGATION
BOPS: JUST BOPS.
SINBAD: SECOND-IN-COMMAND
NOW, LET'S FINISH THIS MISSION, AGENT GRANT.
WHAT DID I LEARN?

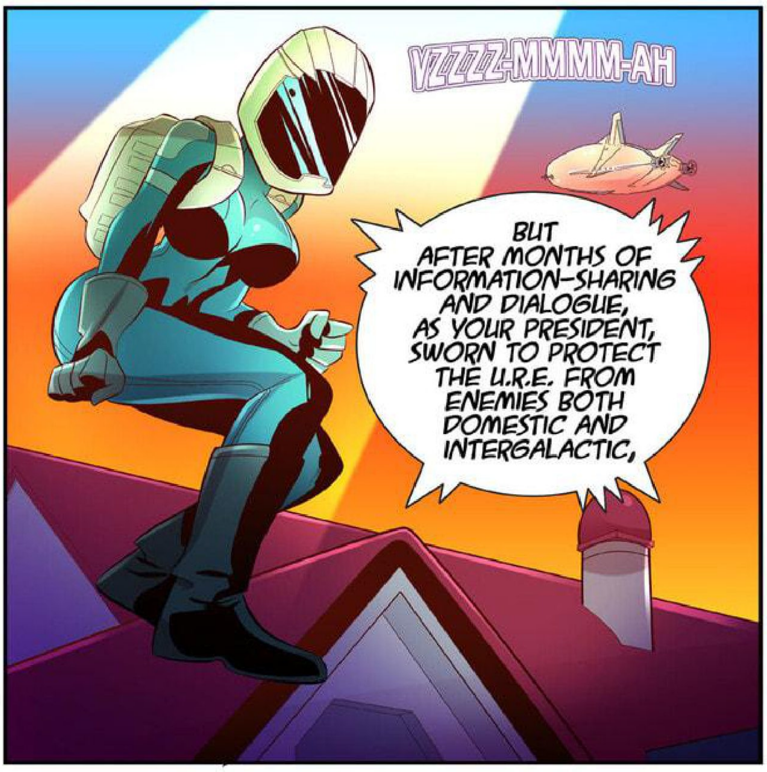

I LEARNED THAT I DON'T HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS AND MY RIGID TRAINING ISN'T ALWAYS UP TO THE TASK.
ALTHOUGH WE WERE FRIENDS, I NEVER UNDERSTOOD STORMY'S LOOSE APPROACH TO COMMAND. I ALWAYS THOUGHT HER LEADERSHIP SKILLS WERE... LACKING.
I WAS WRONG.
SHE WORKED HARD TO BE PART OF A TEAM AND TRUSTED HER CREW TO DO WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO ACCOMPLISH THEIR GOALS.
COMPUTER: BRIDGE, PLEASE.
I HOPE I CAN EARN THE TRUST OF THIS CREW – AND LEARN FROM THEIR EXPERIENCE OUT HERE... IN WILD SPACE.
CAPTAIN ON THE BRIDGE.
NO, NOT CAPTAIN. AGENT.
LET'S SEE WHAT SHE'S GOT. TOM?
OPEN HER UP.

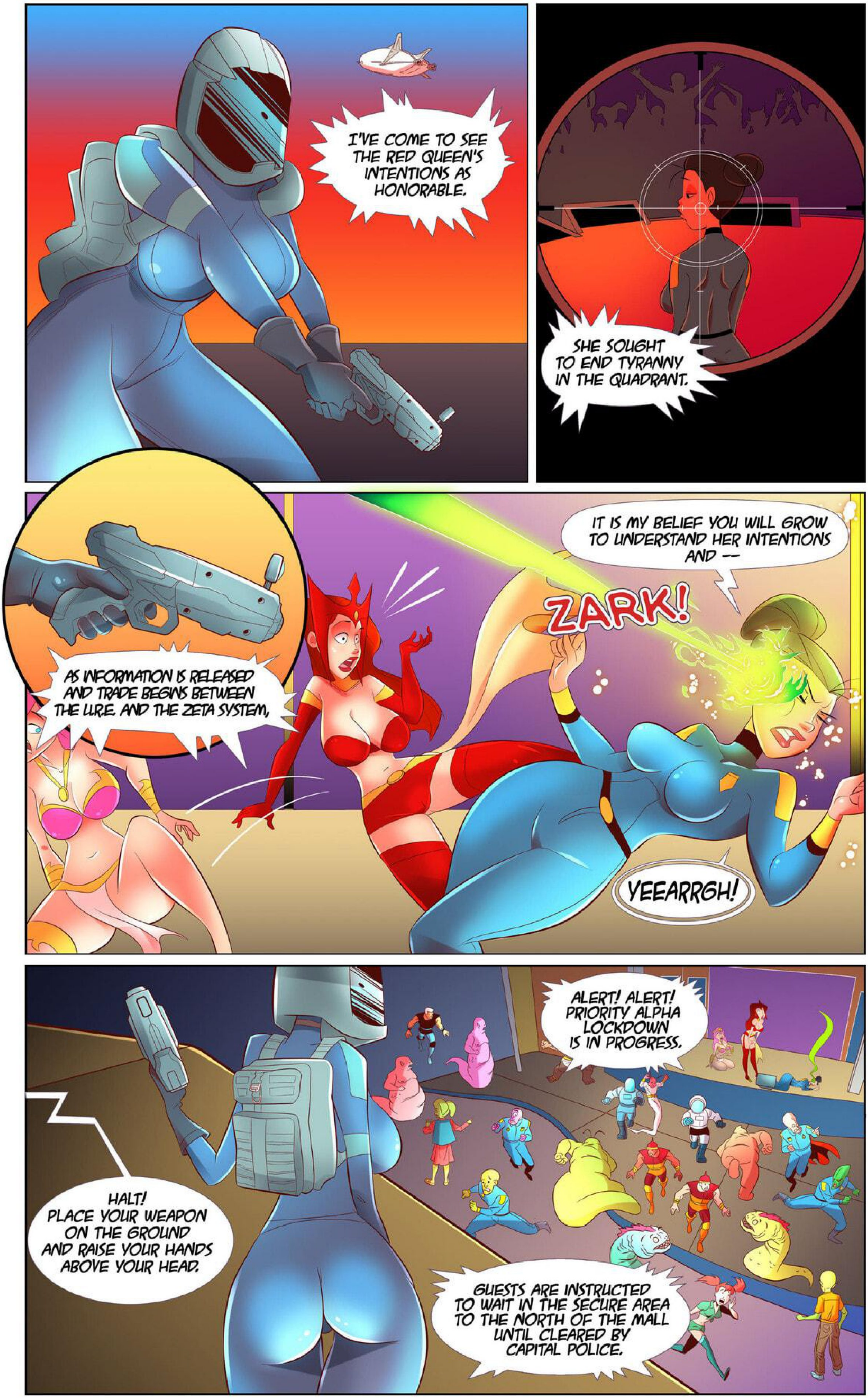
MISSION
ELEVEN

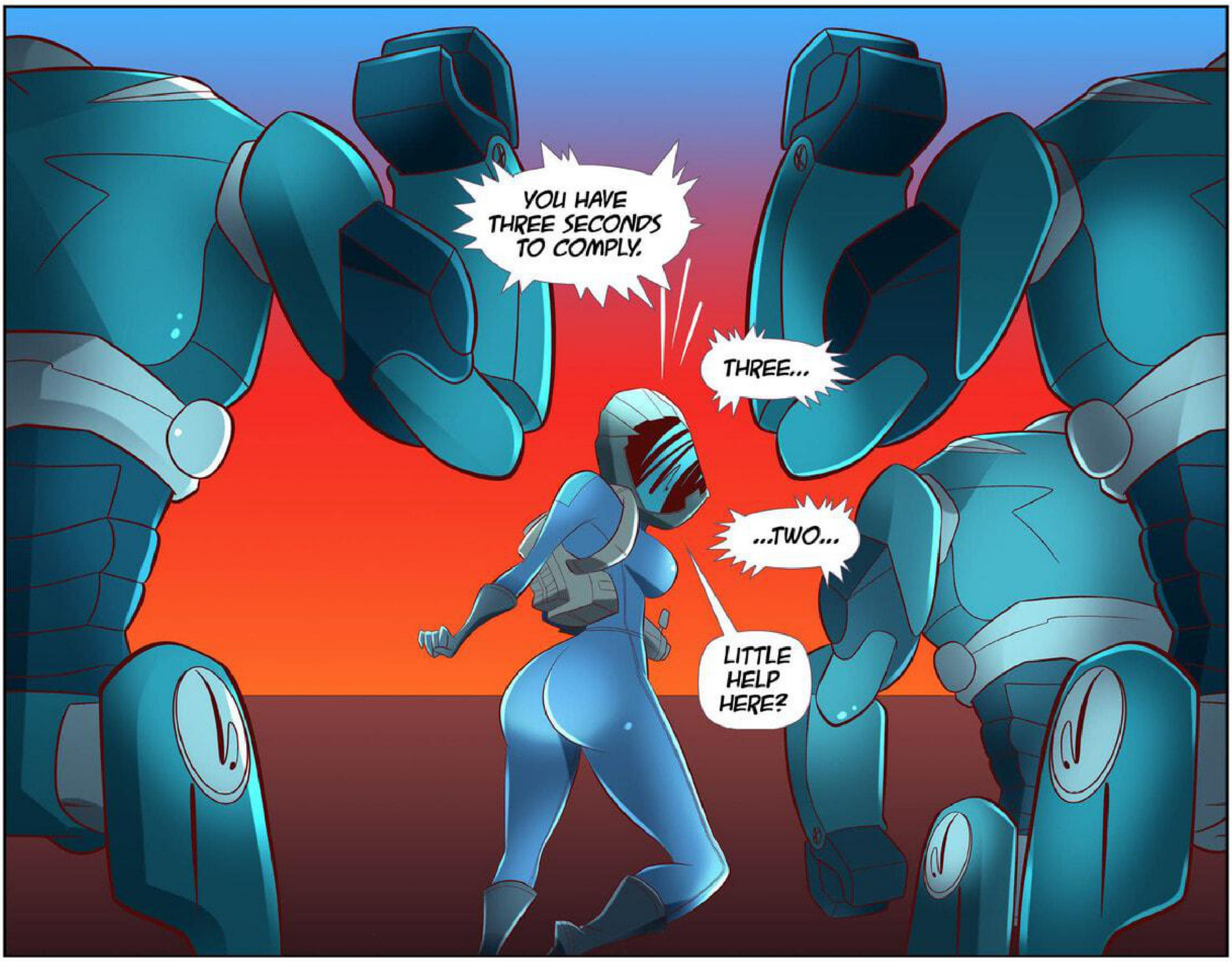

UNITED REPUBLIC OF EARTH CENTRAL COMMAND: THE GRAND COURTYARD
...AND THE ZETA SYSTEM'S APPLICATION TO JOIN THE U.R.E. MARKS THE BEGINNING OF PEACE IN THE QUADRANT.

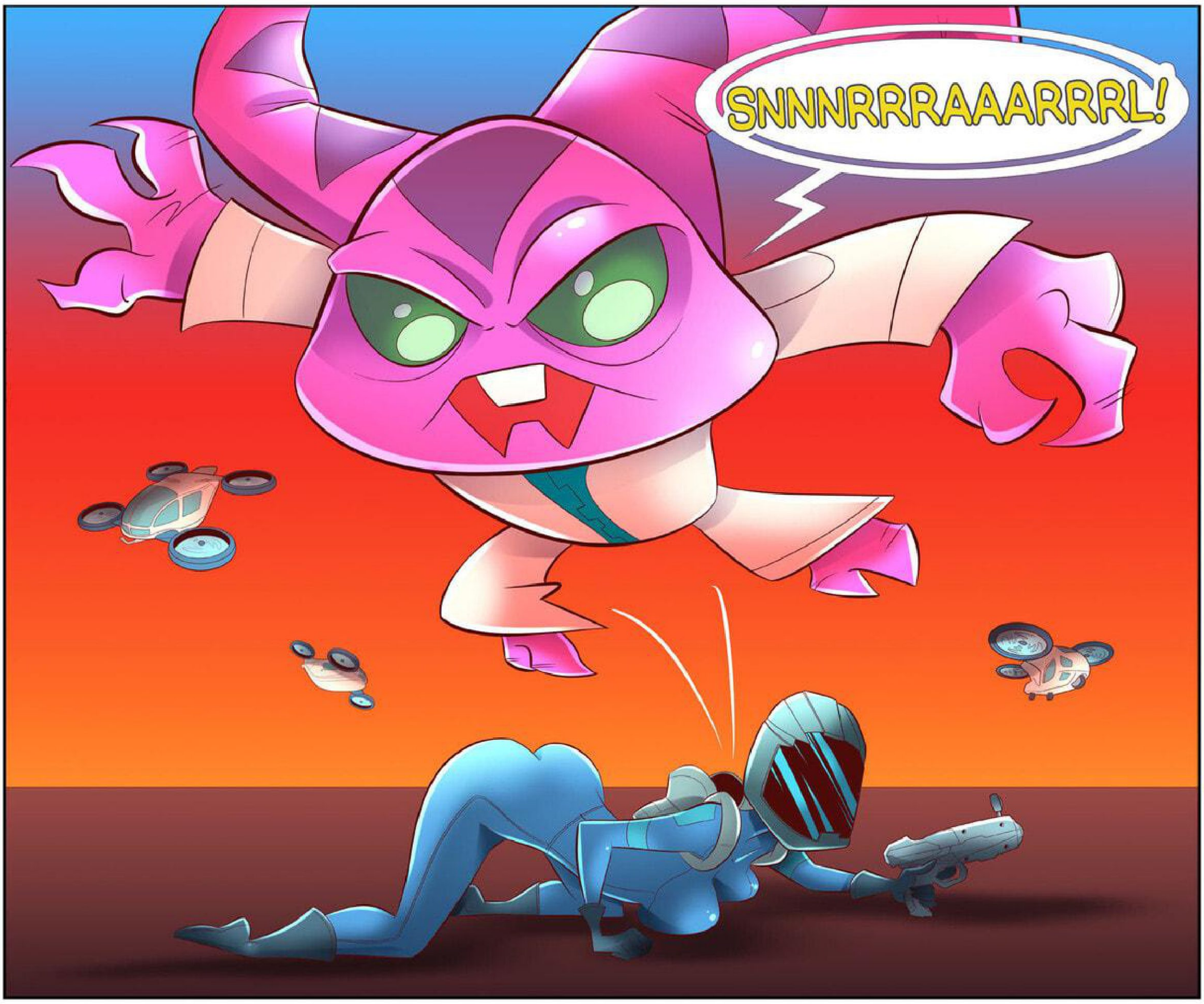

MANY OF YOU ARE... CONCERNED... ABOUT THE RED QUEEN'S INTENTIONS TO JOIN THE U.R.E., FEARING NEFARIOUS INTENT.

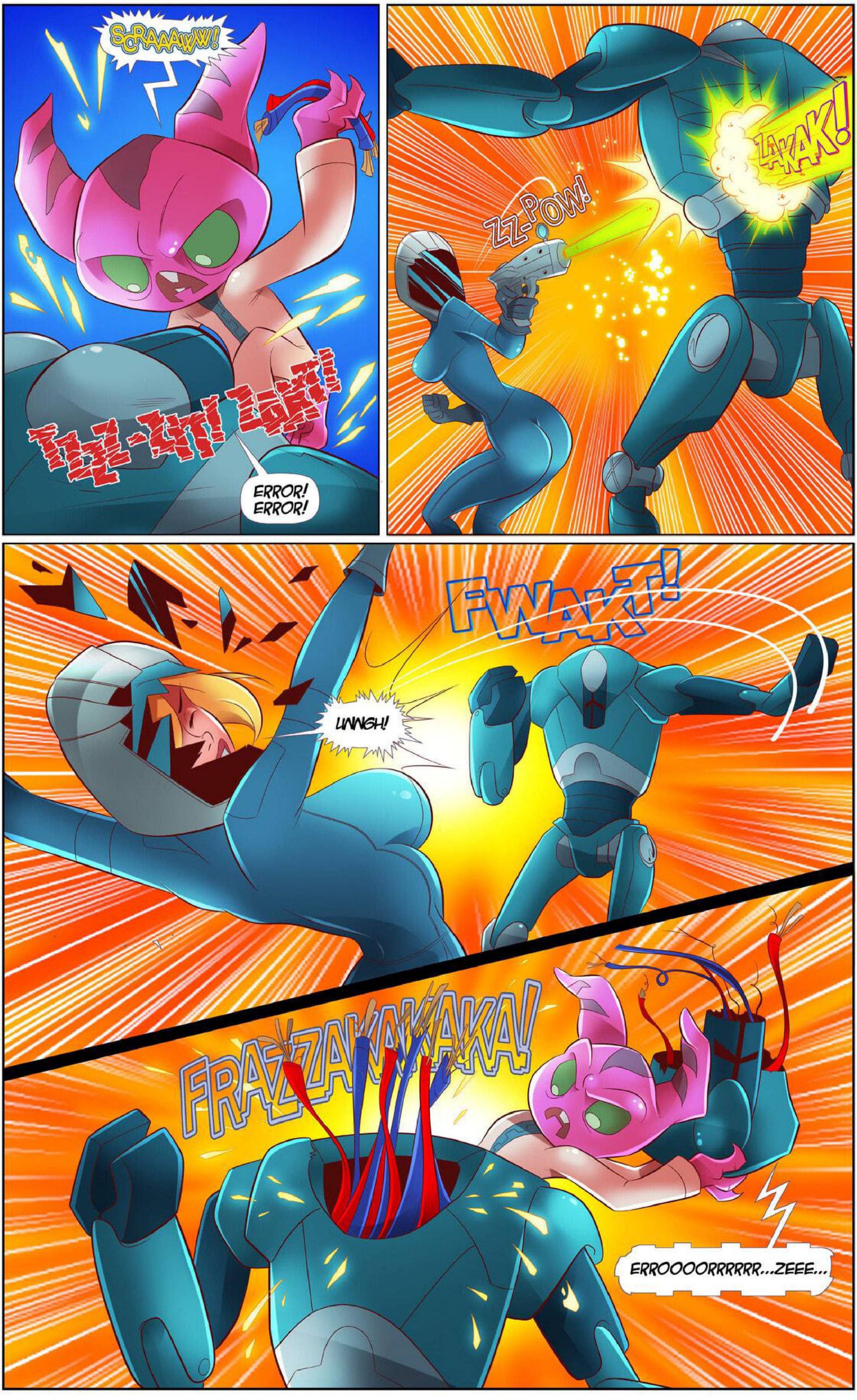

RECALLING THE EVENTS OF A YEAR AGO WHEN THE RED QUEEN ATTEMPTED TO OVERTHROW ORDON'S RULE, YOU MAY EVEN VIEW THE ZETA SYSTEM AS A HOSTILE ACTOR AND A THREAT TO THE TENUOUS STABILITY WE'VE ACHIEVED IN THE WAKE OF ORDON'S DEATH.*

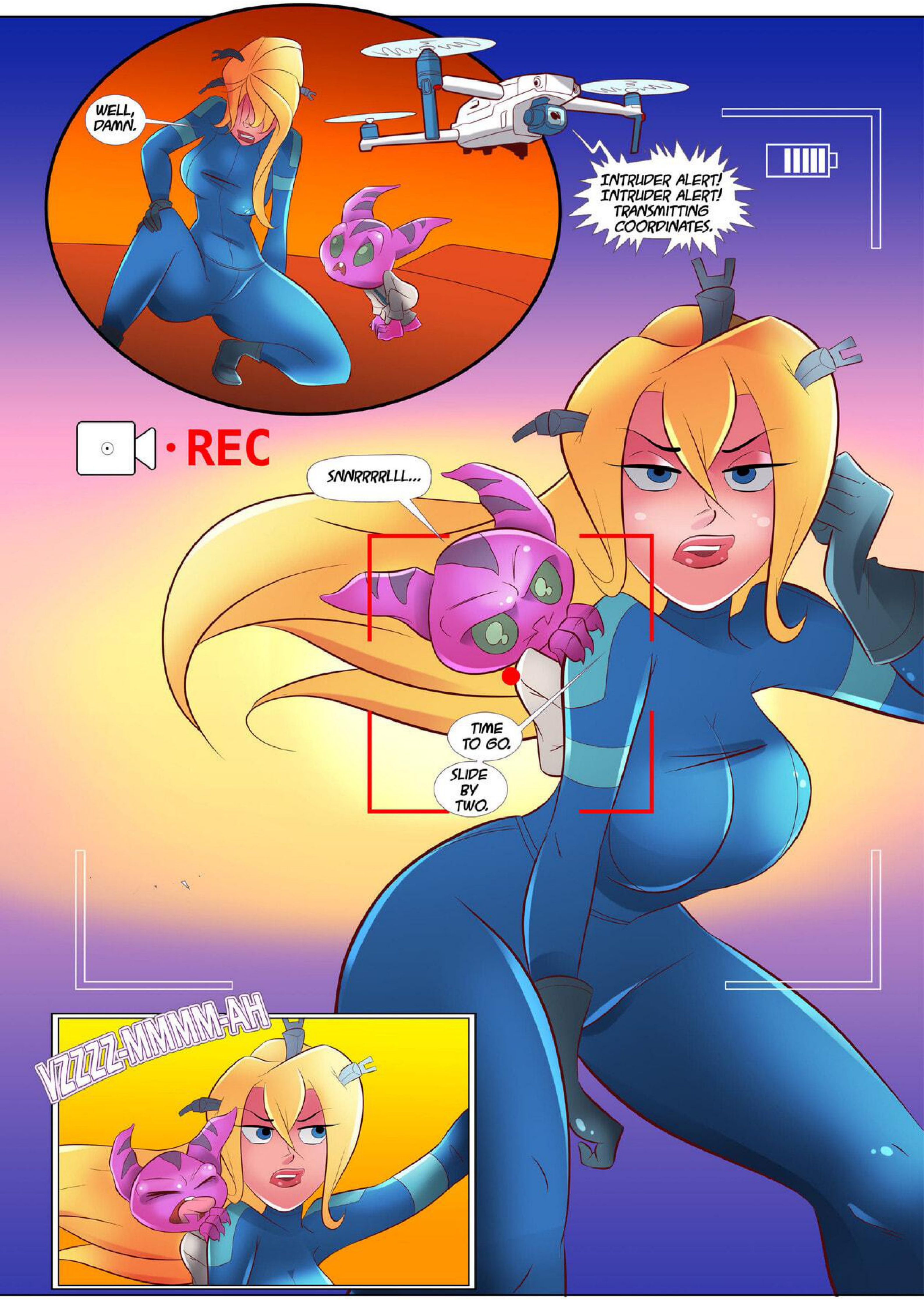

VZZZZ-MMMM-AH
BUT AFTER MONTHS OF INFORMATION-SHARING AND DIALOGUE, AS YOUR PRESIDENT, SWORN TO PROTECT THE U.R.E. FROM ENEMIES BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERGALACTIC,

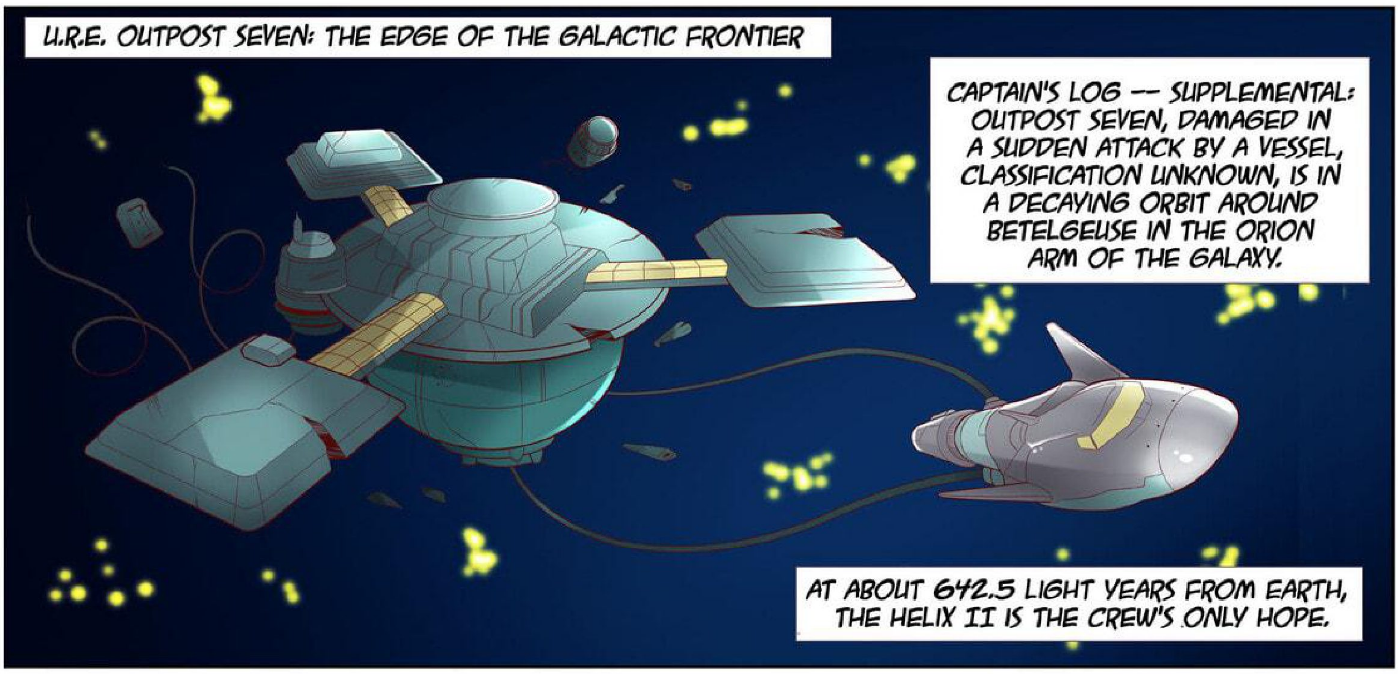

I'VE COME TO SEE THE RED QUEEN'S INTENTIONS AS HONORABLE.
SHE SOUGHT TO END TYRANNY IN THE QUADRANT.
AS INFORMATION IS RELEASED AND TRADE BEGINS BETWEEN THE U.R.E. AND THE ZETA SYSTEM,
IT IS MY BELIEF YOU WILL GROW TO UNDERSTAND HER INTENTIONS AND --
ZARK!
YEEARRGH!
ALERT! ALERT! PRIORITY ALPHA LOCKDOWN IS IN PROGRESS.
HALT! PLACE YOUR WEAPON ON THE GROUND AND RAISE YOUR HANDS ABOVE YOUR HEAD.
GUESTS ARE INSTRUCTED TO WAIT IN THE SECURE AREA TO THE NORTH OF THE MALL UNTIL CLEARED BY CAPITAL POLICE.

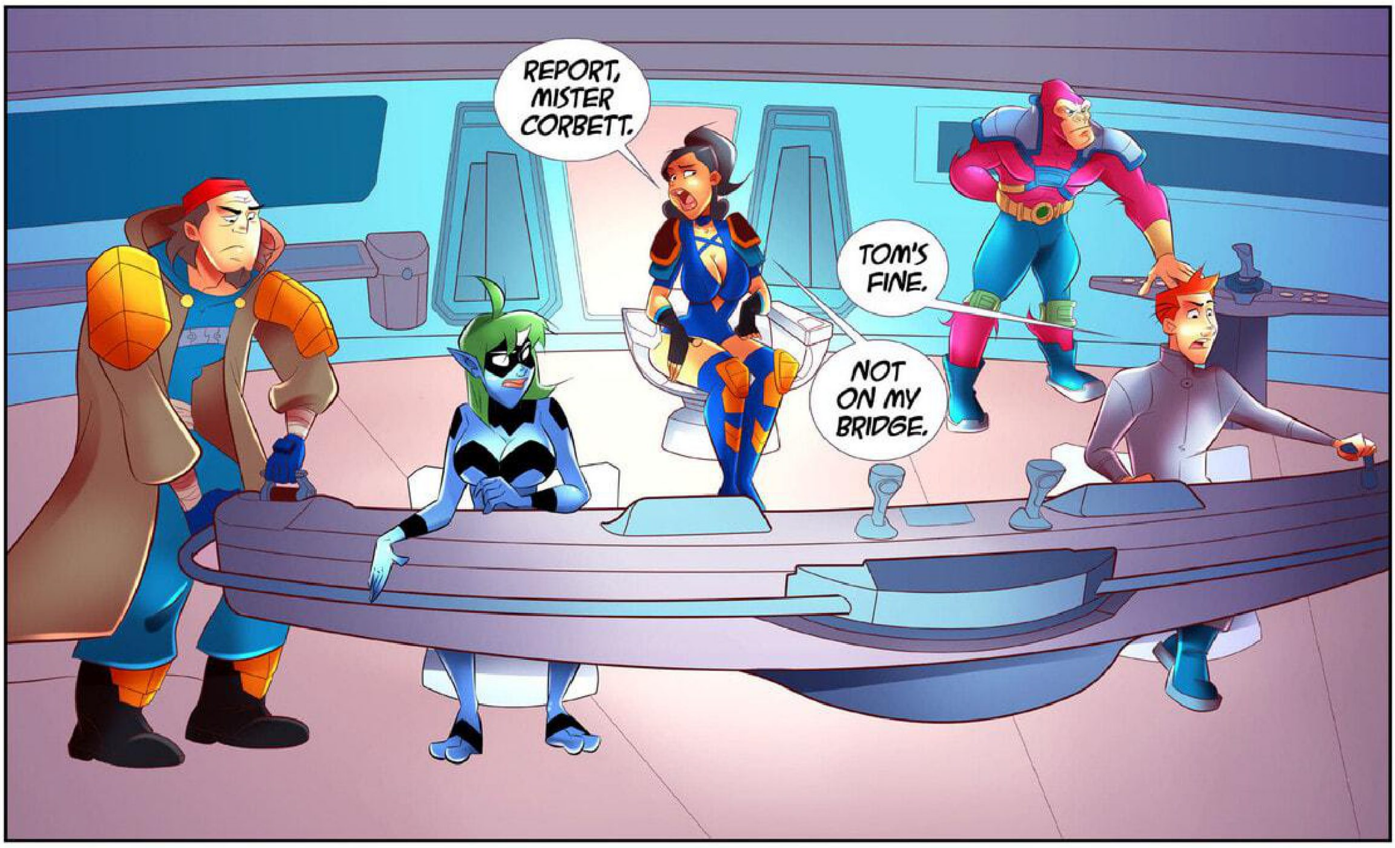

YOU HAVE THREE SECONDS TO COMPLY.
THREE...
...TWO...
LITTLE HELP HERE?

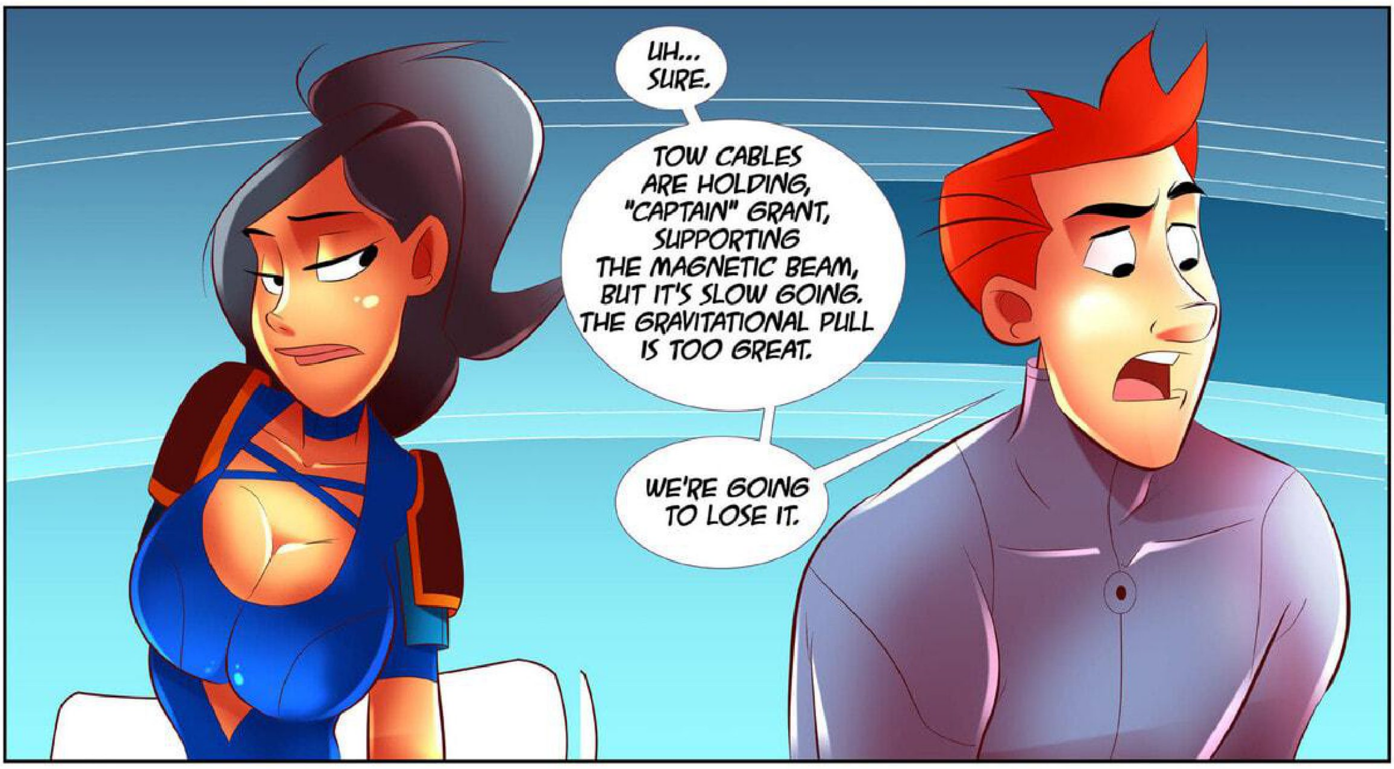

SNNNRRRAAARRRL!

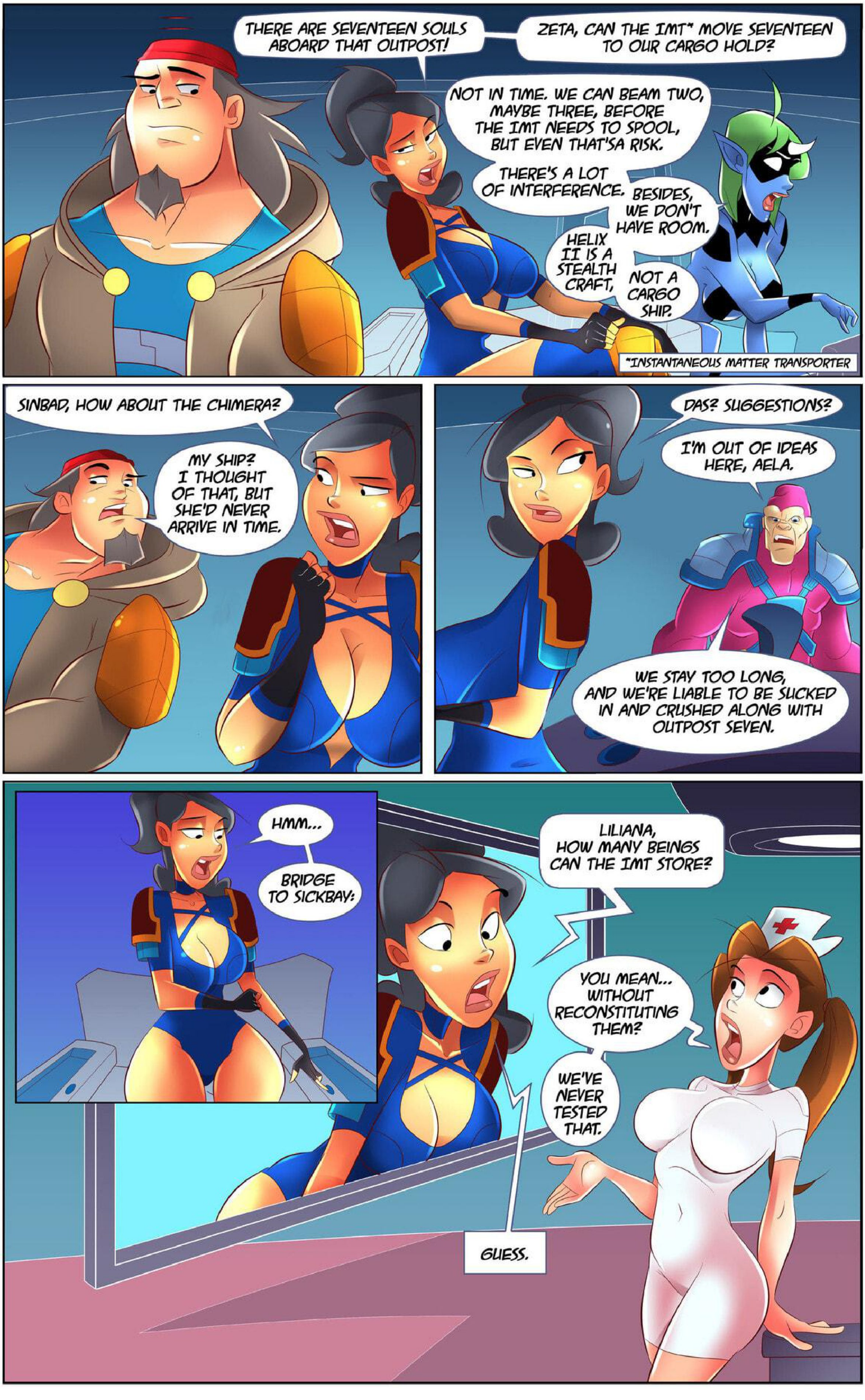

SCRAAAWW!
FZZ-ZIT! ZORT!
ERROR! ERROR!
ZZ-POW!
ZAKAK!
FWAKT!
UNNGH!
FRAZZAKAKAKA!
ERROOOORRRRRR...ZEEE...

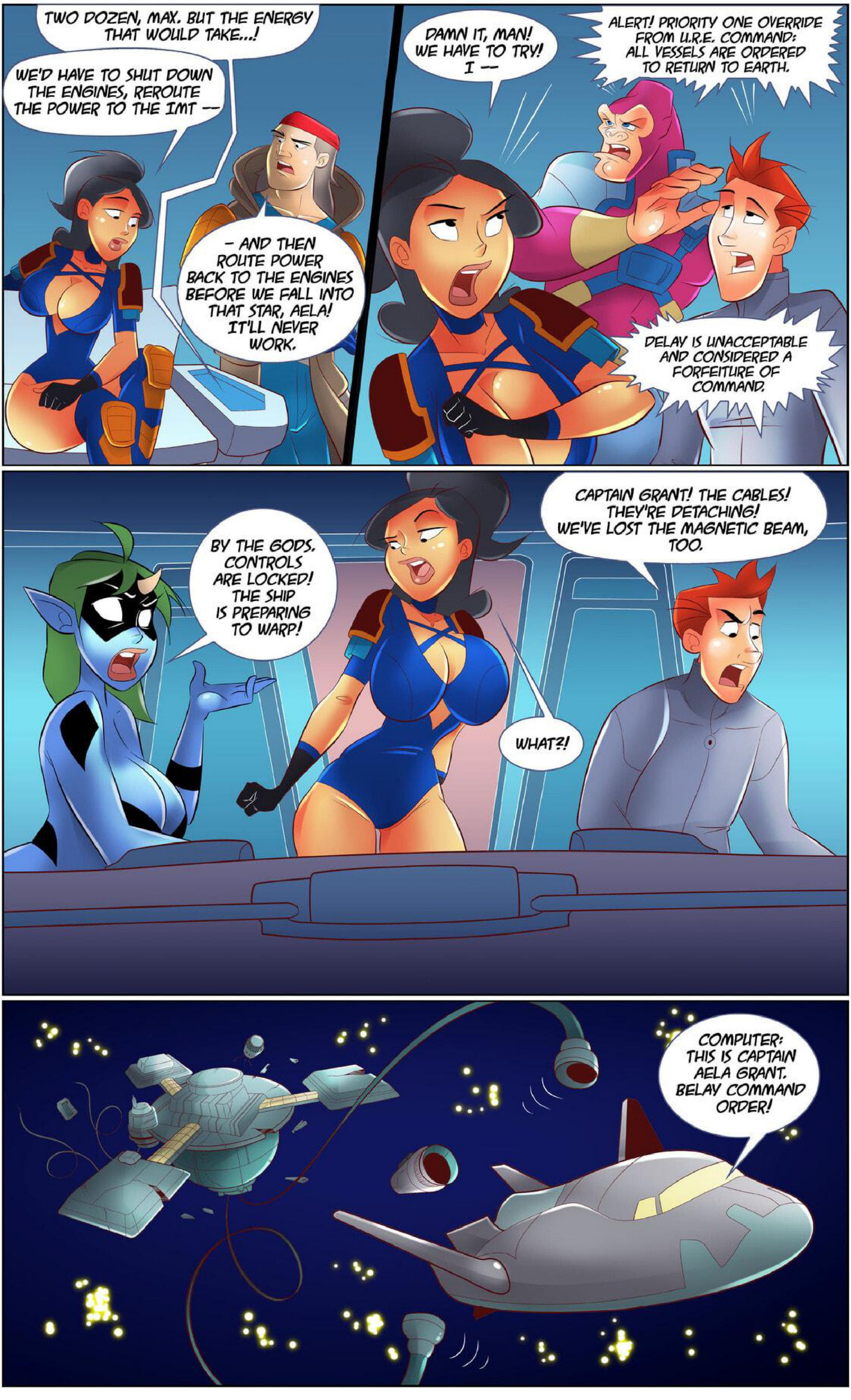

WELL, DAMN.
INTRUDER ALERT! INTRUDER ALERT! TRANSMITTING COORDINATES.
• REC
SNNRRRRLLL...
TIME TO GO.
SLIDE BY TWO.
VZZZZZ-MMMMM-AH

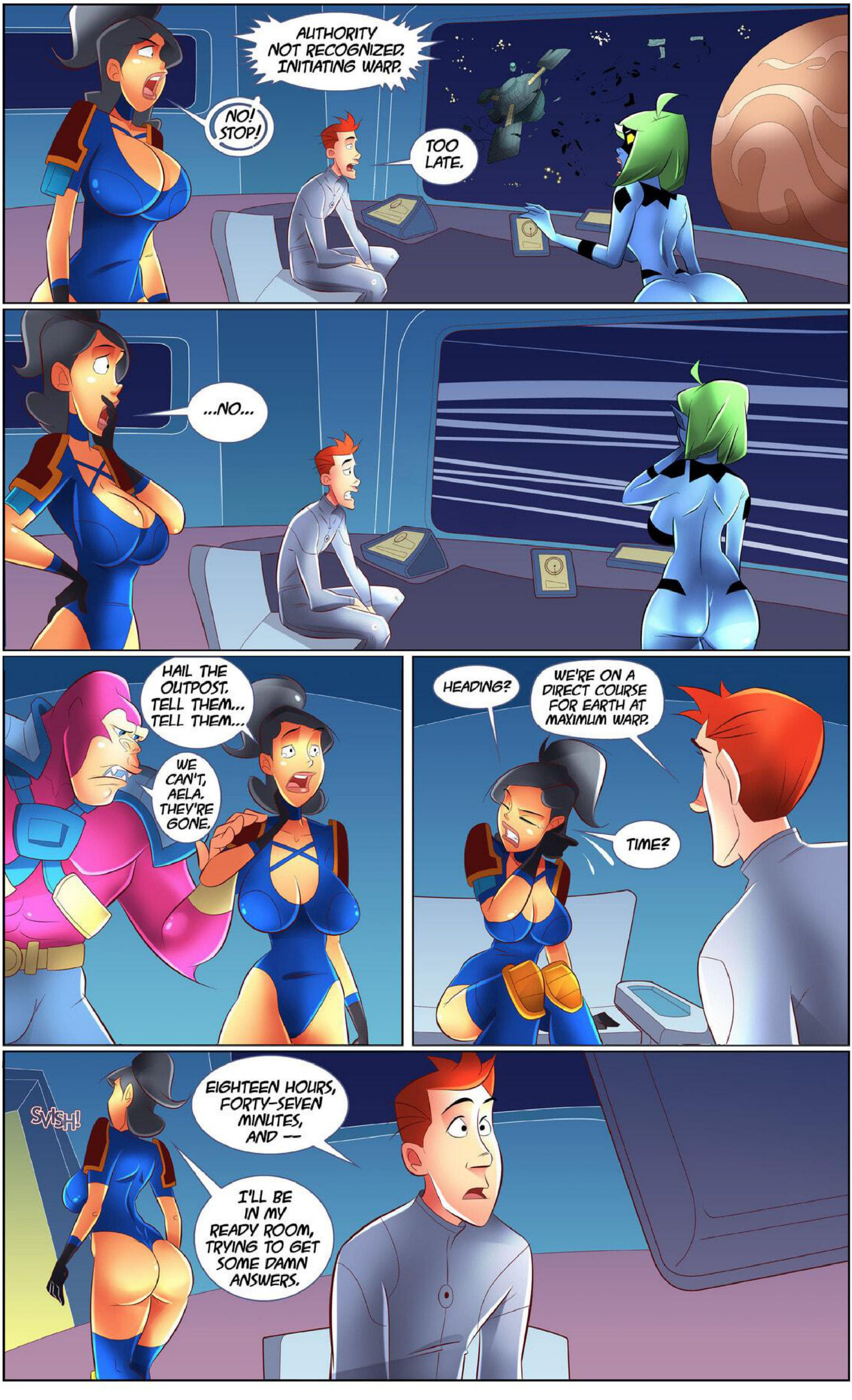

U.R.E. OUTPOST SEVEN: THE EDGE OF THE GALACTIC FRONTIER
CAPTAIN'S LOG -- SUPPLEMENTAL: OUTPOST SEVEN, DAMAGED IN A SUDDEN ATTACK BY A VESSEL, CLASSIFICATION UNKNOWN, IS IN A DECAYING ORBIT AROUND BETELGEUSE IN THE ORION ARM OF THE GALAXY.
AT ABOUT 642.5 LIGHT YEARS FROM EARTH, THE HELIX II IS THE CREW'S ONLY HOPE.

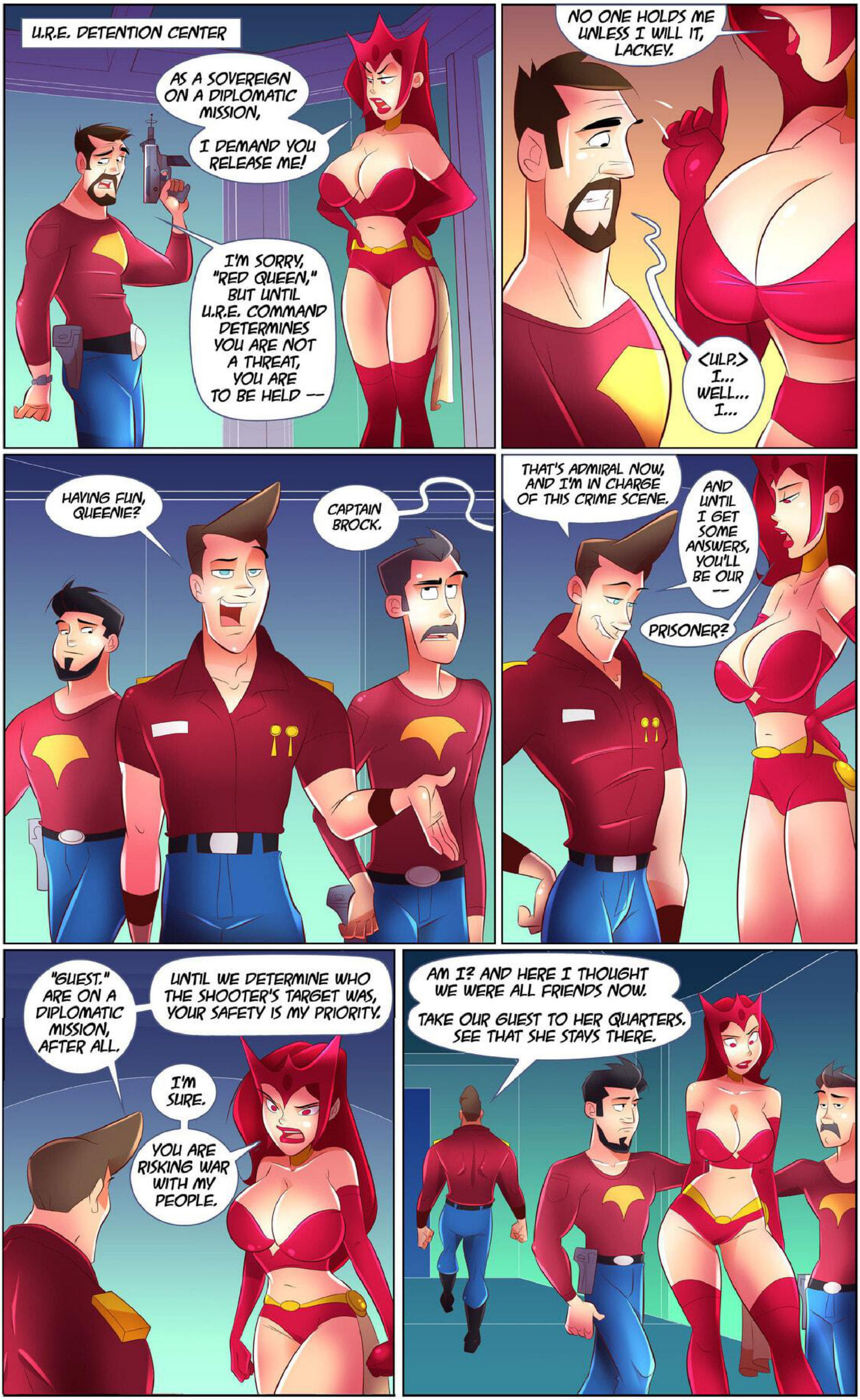

REPORT, MISTER CORBETT.
TOM'S FINE.
NOT ON MY BRIDGE.

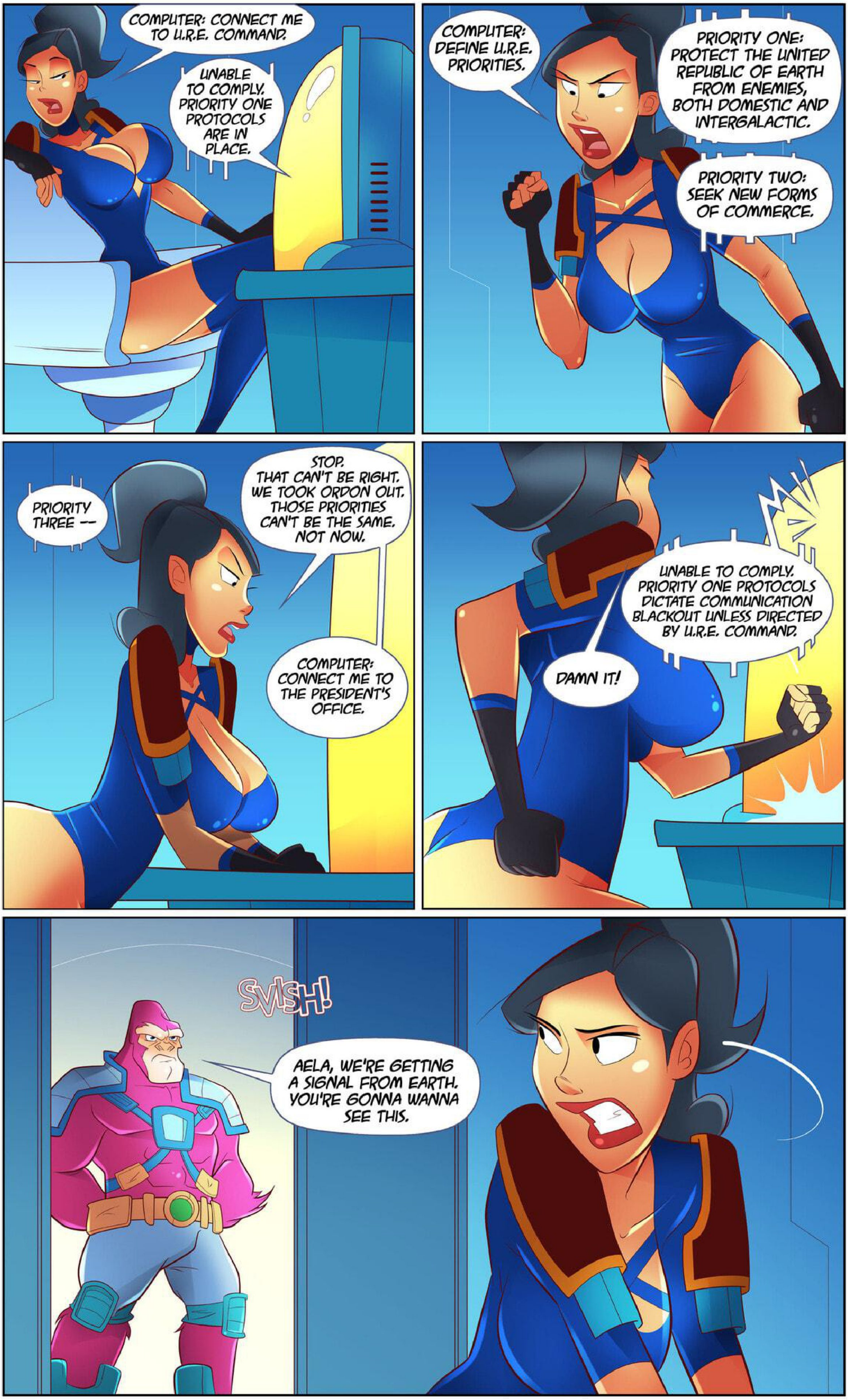

UH... SURE.
TOW CABLES ARE HOLDING, "CAPTAIN" GRANT, SUPPORTING THE MAGNETIC BEAM, BUT IT'S SLOW GOING. THE GRAVITATIONAL PULL IS TOO GREAT.
WE'RE GOING TO LOSE IT.

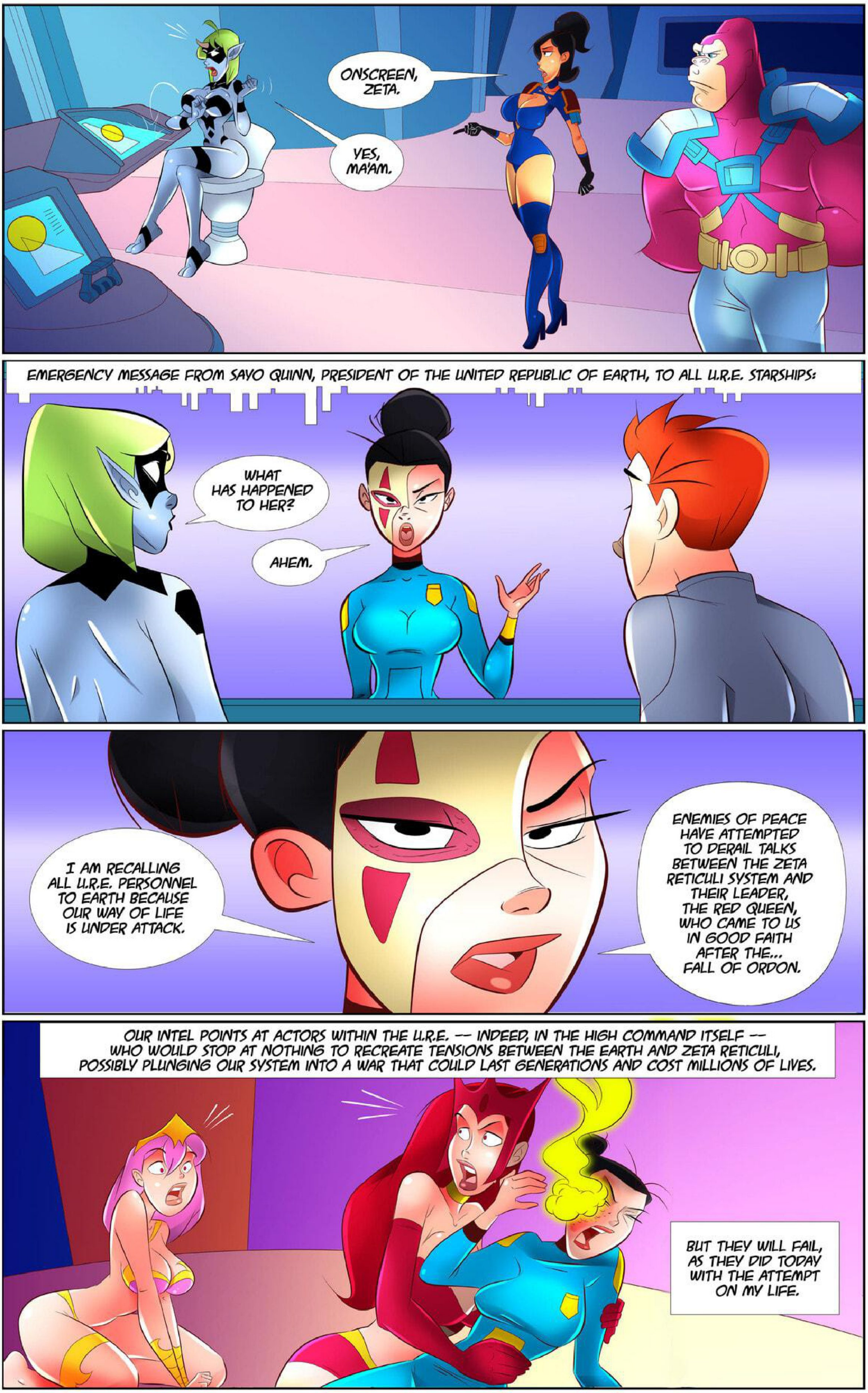

THERE ARE SEVENTEEN SOULS ABOARD THAT OUTPOST!
ZETA, CAN THE IMT* MOVE SEVENTEEN TO OUR CARGO HOLD?
NOT IN TIME. WE CAN BEAM TWO, MAYBE THREE, BEFORE THE IMT NEEDS TO SPOOL, BUT EVEN THAT'SA RISK.
THERE'S A LOT OF INTERFERENCE.
BESIDES, WE DON'T HAVE ROOM.
HELIX II IS A STEALTH CRAFT,
NOT A CARGO SHIP.
*INSTANTANEOUS MATTER TRANSPORTER
SINBAD, HOW ABOUT THE CHIMERA?
MY SHIP? I THOUGHT OF THAT, BUT SHE'D NEVER ARRIVE IN TIME.
DAS? SUGGESTIONS?
I'M OUT OF IDEAS HERE, AELA.
WE STAY TOO LONG, AND WE'RE LIABLE TO BE SUCKED IN AND CRUSHED ALONG WITH OUTPOST SEVEN.
HMM...
BRIDGE TO SICKBAY:
LILIANA, HOW MANY BEINGS CAN THE IMT STORE?
YOU MEAN... WITHOUT RECONSTITUTING THEM?
WE'VE NEVER TESTED THAT.
GUESS.

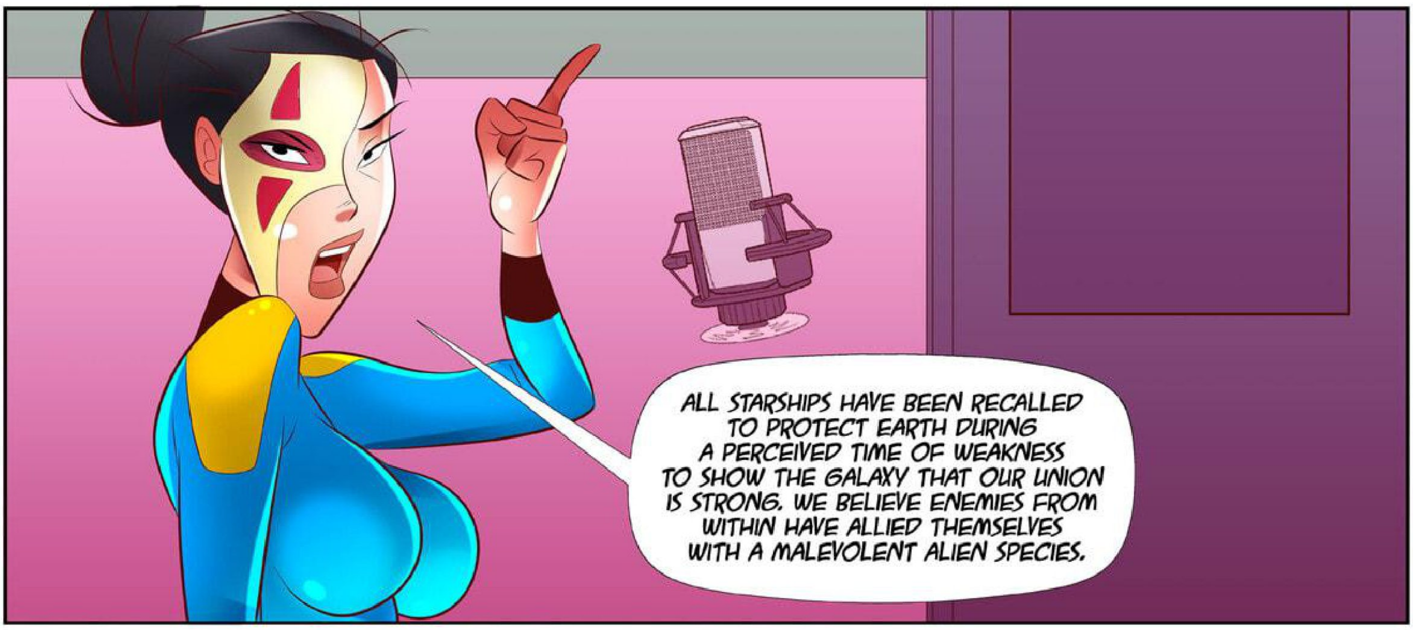

TWO DOZEN, MAX. BUT THE ENERGY THAT WOULD TAKE...!
WE'D HAVE TO SHUT DOWN THE ENGINES, REROUTE THE POWER TO THE IMT --
- AND THEN ROUTE POWER BACK TO THE ENGINES BEFORE WE FALL INTO THAT STAR, AELA! IT'LL NEVER WORK.
DAMN IT, MAN! WE HAVE TO TRY! I --
ALERT! PRIORITY ONE OVERRIDE FROM U.R.E. COMMAND: ALL VESSELS ARE ORDERED TO RETURN TO EARTH.
DELAY IS UNACCEPTABLE AND CONSIDERED A FORFEITURE OF COMMAND.
BY THE GODS. CONTROLS ARE LOCKED! THE SHIP IS PREPARING TO WARP!
WHAT?!
CAPTAIN GRANT! THE CABLES! THEY'RE DETACHING! WE'VE LOST THE MAGNETIC BEAM, TOO.
COMPUTER: THIS IS CAPTAIN AELA GRANT. BELAY COMMAND ORDER!

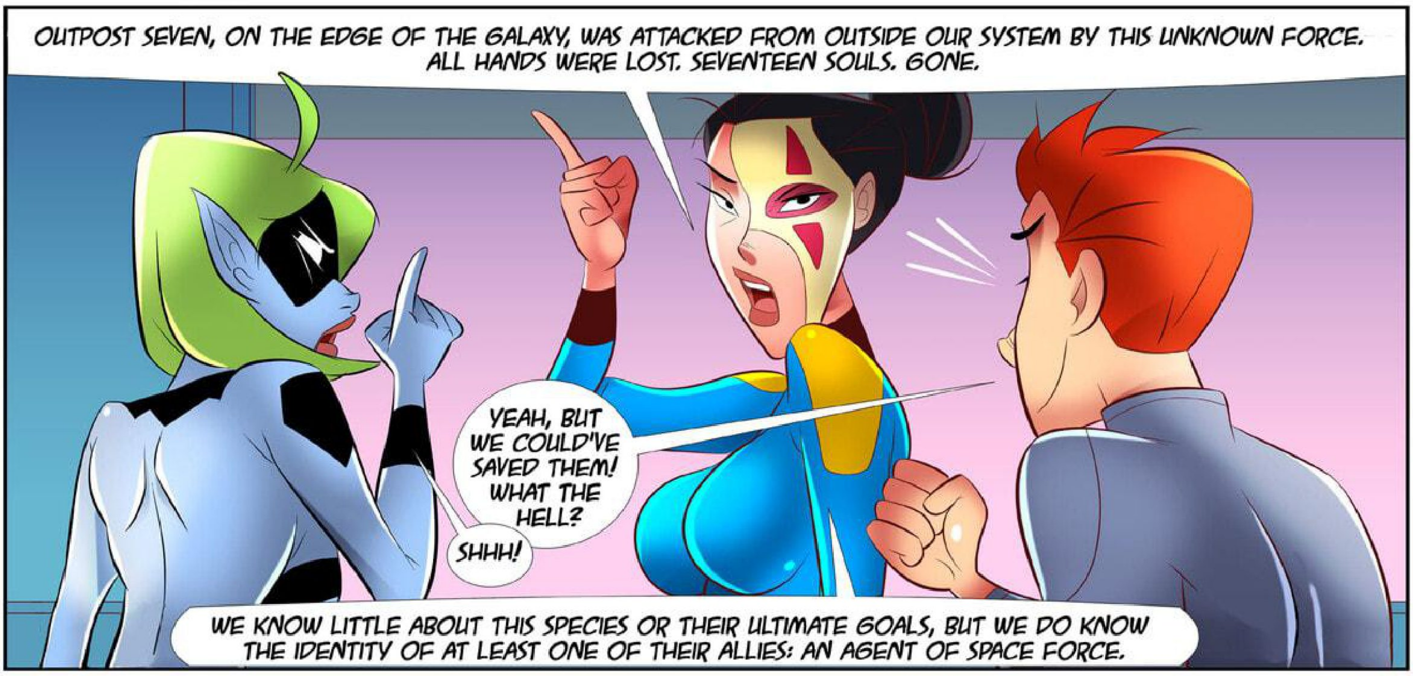

AUTHORITY NOT RECOGNIZED. INITIATING WARP.
NO! STOP!
TOO LATE.
...NO...
HAIL THE OUTPOST. TELL THEM... TELL THEM...
WE CAN'T, AELA. THEY'RE GONE.
HEADING?
WE'RE ON A DIRECT COURSE FOR EARTH AT MAXIMUM WARP.
TIME?
SVISH!
EIGHTEEN HOURS, FORTY-SEVEN MINUTES, AND --
I'LL BE IN MY READY ROOM, TRYING TO GET SOME DAMN ANSWERS.

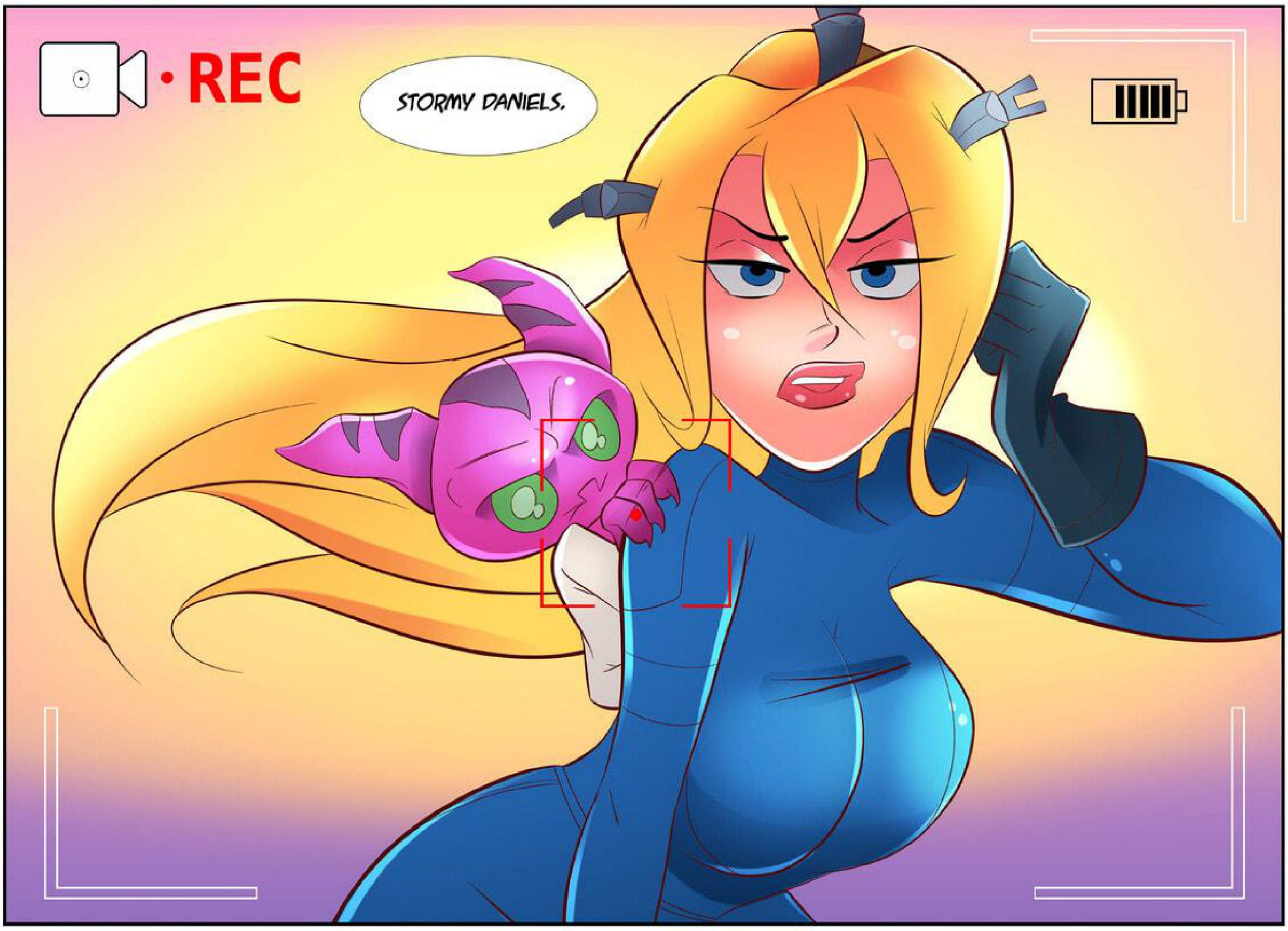

U.R.E. DETENTION CENTER
AS A SOVEREIGN ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION,
I DEMAND YOU RELEASE ME!
I'M SORRY, "RED QUEEN," BUT UNTIL U.R.E. COMMAND DETERMINES YOU ARE NOT A THREAT, YOU ARE TO BE HELD --
NO ONE HOLDS ME UNLESS I WILL IT, LACKEY.
<ULP.> I... WELL... I...
HAVING FUN, QUEENIE?
CAPTAIN BROCK.
THAT'S ADMIRAL NOW, AND I'M IN CHARGE OF THIS CRIME SCENE.
AND UNTIL I GET SOME ANSWERS, YOU'LL BE OUR --
PRISONER?
UNTIL WE DETERMINE WHO THE SHOOTER'S TARGET WAS, YOUR SAFETY IS MY PRIORITY.
"GUEST." ARE ON A DIPLOMATIC MISSION, AFTER ALL.
I'M SURE.
YOU ARE RISKING WAR WITH MY PEOPLE.
AM I? AND HERE I THOUGHT WE WERE ALL FRIENDS NOW.
TAKE OUR GUEST TO HER QUARTERS. SEE THAT SHE STAYS THERE.

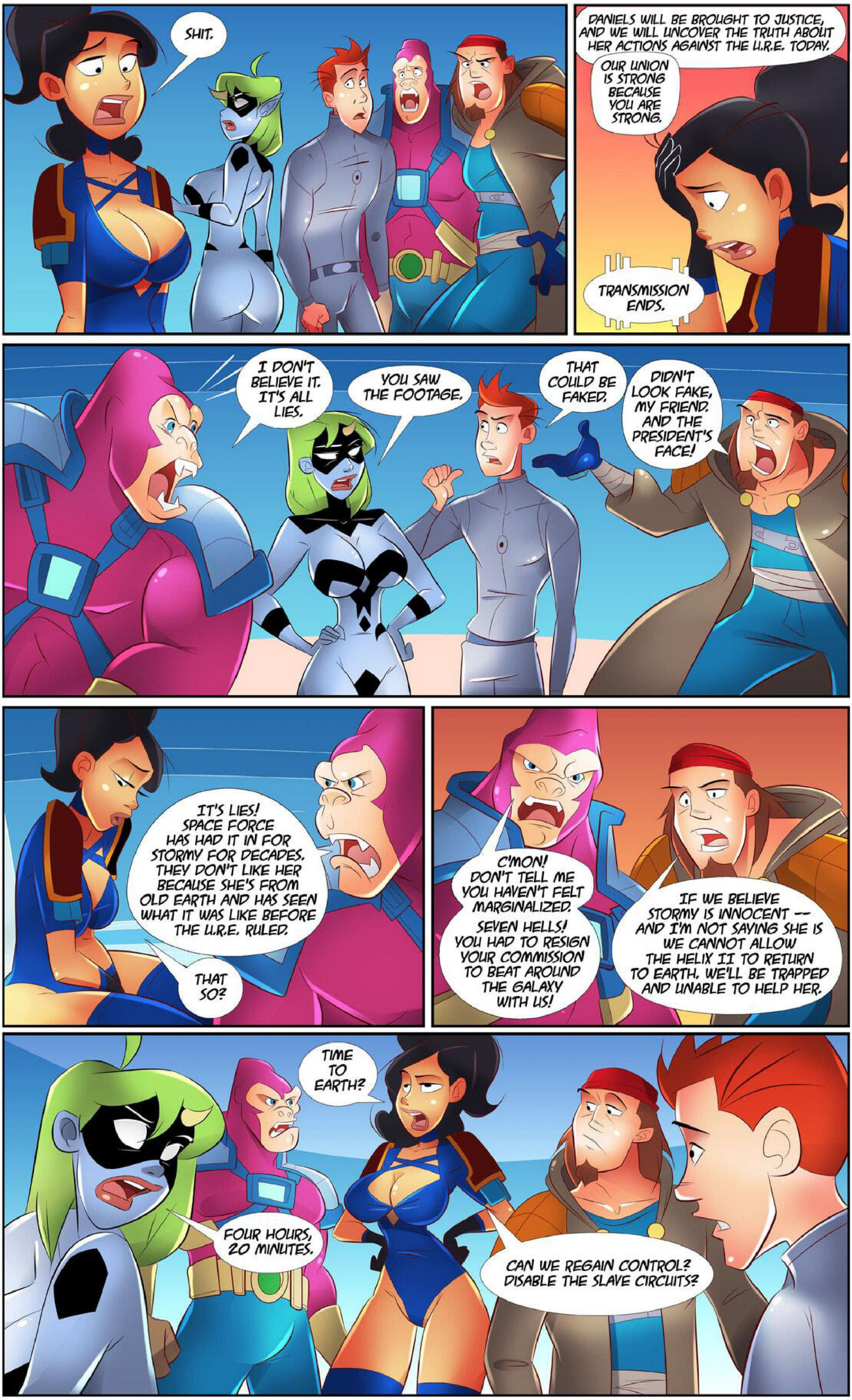

COMPUTER: CONNECT ME TO U.R.E. COMMAND.
UNABLE TO COMPLY. PRIORITY ONE PROTOCOLS ARE IN PLACE.
COMPUTER: DEFINE U.R.E. PRIORITIES.
PRIORITY ONE: PROTECT THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF EARTH FROM ENEMIES, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERGALACTIC.
PRIORITY TWO: SEEK NEW FORMS OF COMMERCE.
PRIORITY THREE --
STOP. THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT. WE TOOK ORDON OUT. THOSE PRIORITIES CAN'T BE THE SAME. NOT NOW.
COMPUTER: CONNECT ME TO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE.
UNABLE TO COMPLY. PRIORITY ONE PROTOCOLS DICTATE COMMUNICATION BLACKOUT UNLESS DIRECTED BY U.R.E. COMMAND.
DAMN IT!
SVISH!
AELA, WE'RE GETTING A SIGNAL FROM EARTH. YOU'RE GONNA WANNA SEE THIS.

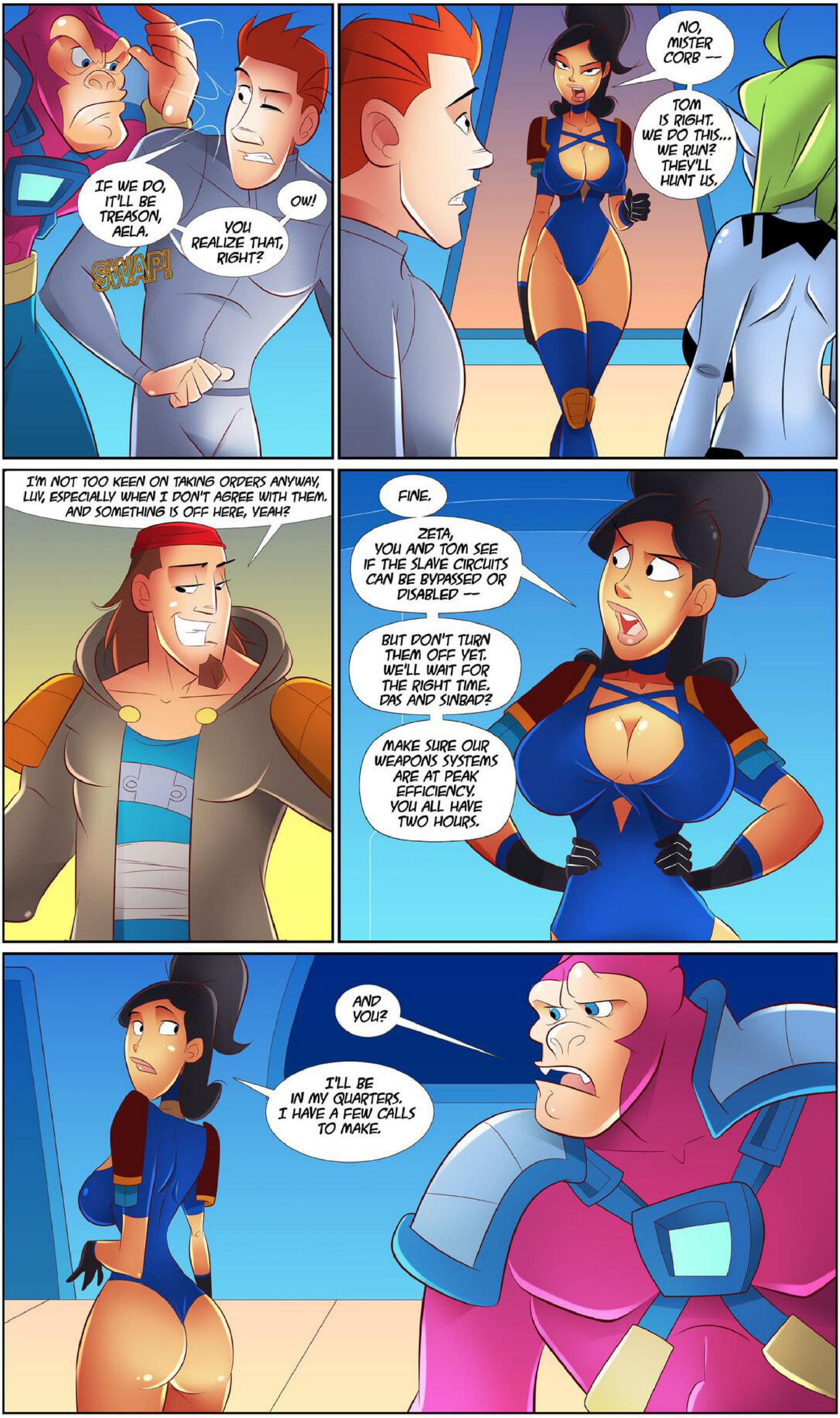

ONSCREEN, ZETA.
YES, MA'AM.
EMERGENCY MESSAGE FROM SAYO QUINN, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF EARTH, TO ALL U.R.E. STARSHIPS:
WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HER?
AHEM.
I AM RECALLING ALL U.R.E. PERSONNEL TO EARTH BECAUSE OUR WAY OF LIFE IS UNDER ATTACK.
ENEMIES OF PEACE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO DERAIL TALKS BETWEEN THE ZETA RETICULI SYSTEM AND THEIR LEADER, THE RED QUEEN, WHO CAME TO US IN GOOD FAITH AFTER THE... FALL OF ORDON.
OUR INTEL POINTS AT ACTORS WITHIN THE U.R.E. -- INDEED, IN THE HIGH COMMAND ITSELF -- WHO WOULD STOP AT NOTHING TO RECREATE TENSIONS BETWEEN THE EARTH AND ZETA RETICULI, POSSIBLY PLUNGING OUR SYSTEM INTO A WAR THAT COULD LAST GENERATIONS AND COST MILLIONS OF LIVES.
BUT THEY WILL FAIL, AS THEY DID TODAY WITH THE ATTEMPT ON MY LIFE.

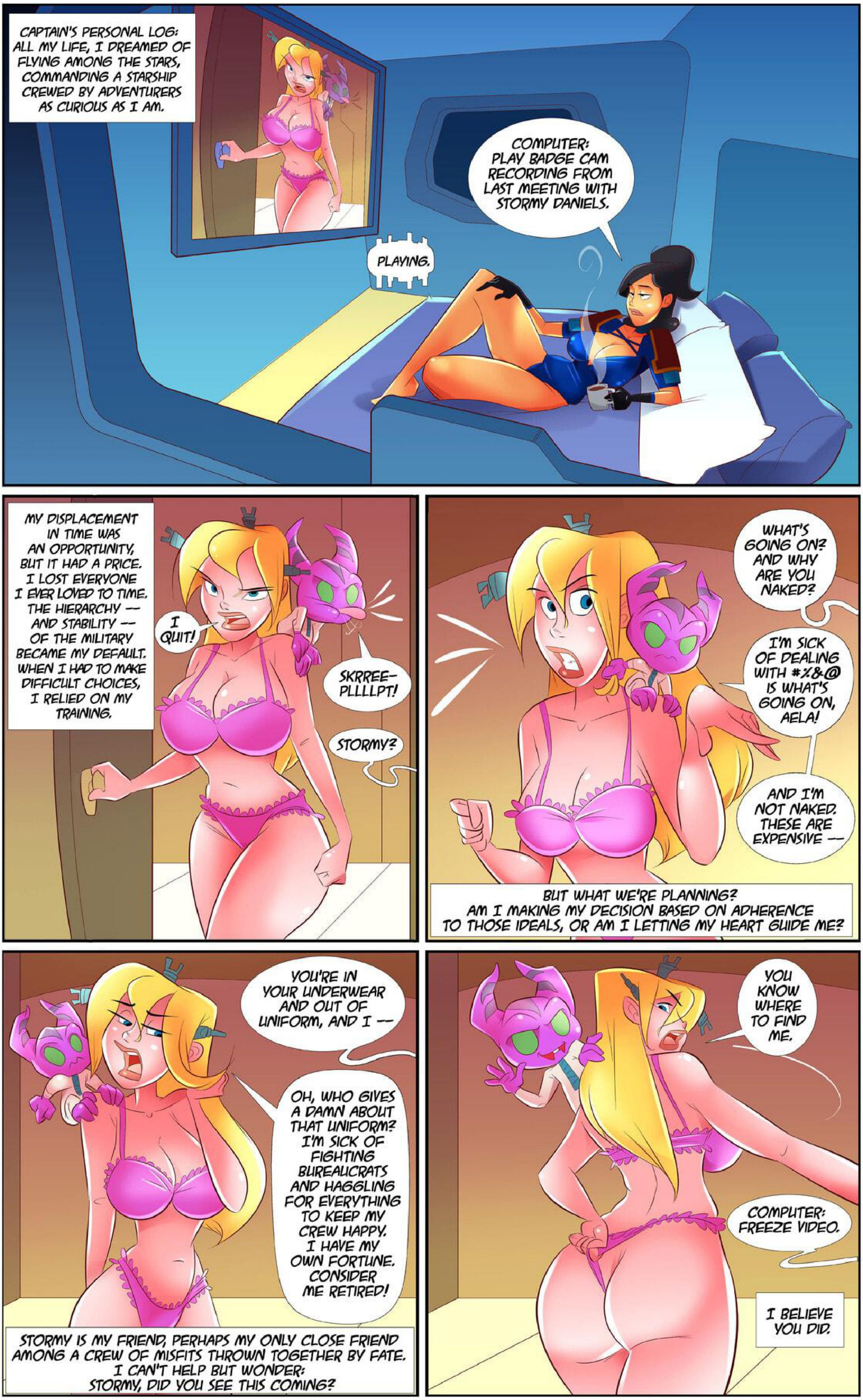

ALL STARSHIPS HAVE BEEN RECALLED TO PROTECT EARTH DURING A PERCEIVED TIME OF WEAKNESS TO SHOW THE GALAXY THAT OUR UNION IS STRONG. WE BELIEVE ENEMIES FROM WITHIN HAVE ALLIED THEMSELVES WITH A MALEVOLENT ALIEN SPECIES.

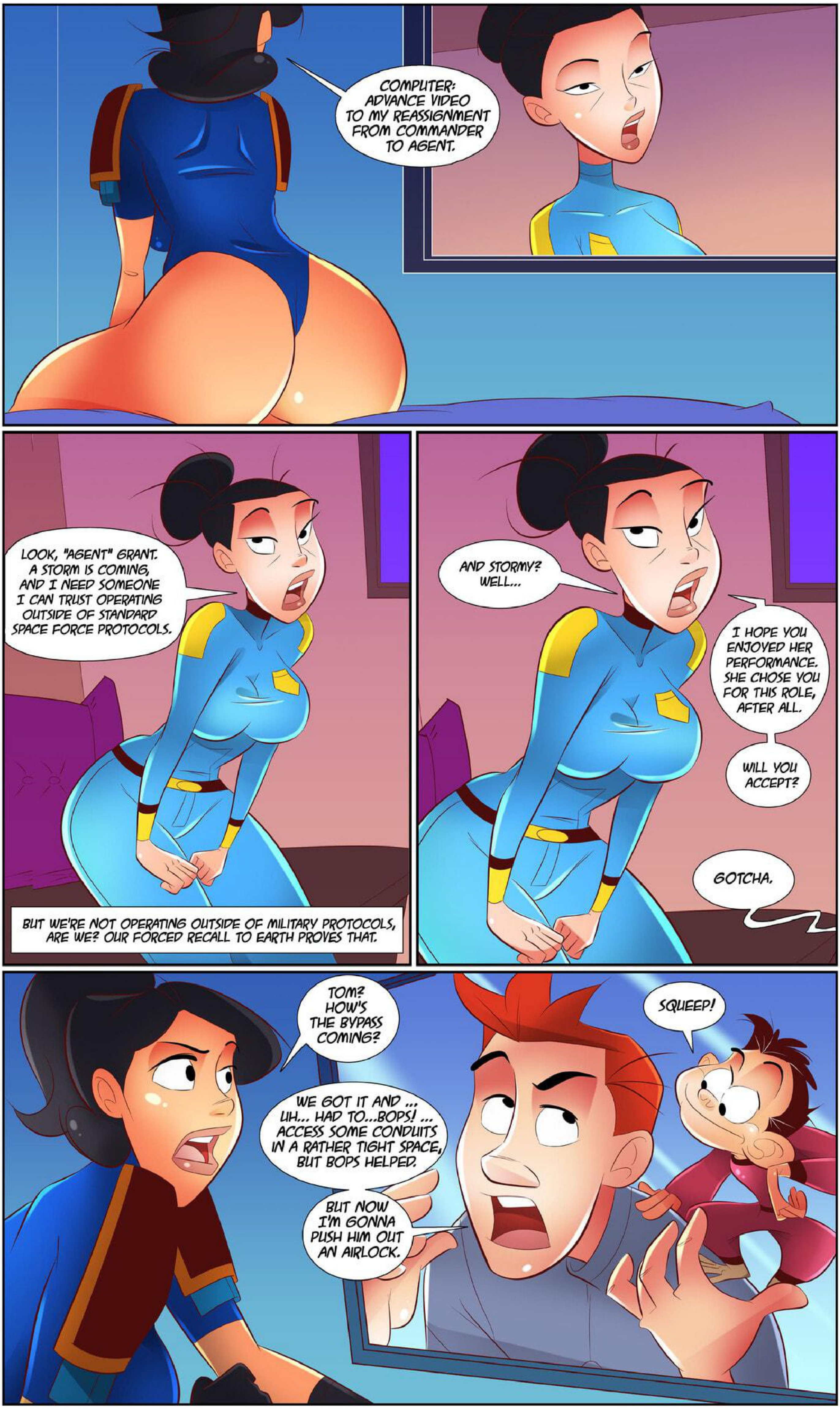

OUTPOST SEVEN, ON THE EDGE OF THE GALAXY, WAS ATTACKED FROM OUTSIDE OUR SYSTEM BY THIS UNKNOWN FORCE. ALL HANDS WERE LOST. SEVENTEEN SOULS. GONE.
YEAH, BUT WE COULD'VE SAVED THEM! WHAT THE HELL?
SHHH!
WE KNOW LITTLE ABOUT THIS SPECIES OR THEIR ULTIMATE GOALS, BUT WE DO KNOW THE IDENTITY OF AT LEAST ONE OF THEIR ALLIES: AN AGENT OF SPACE FORCE.

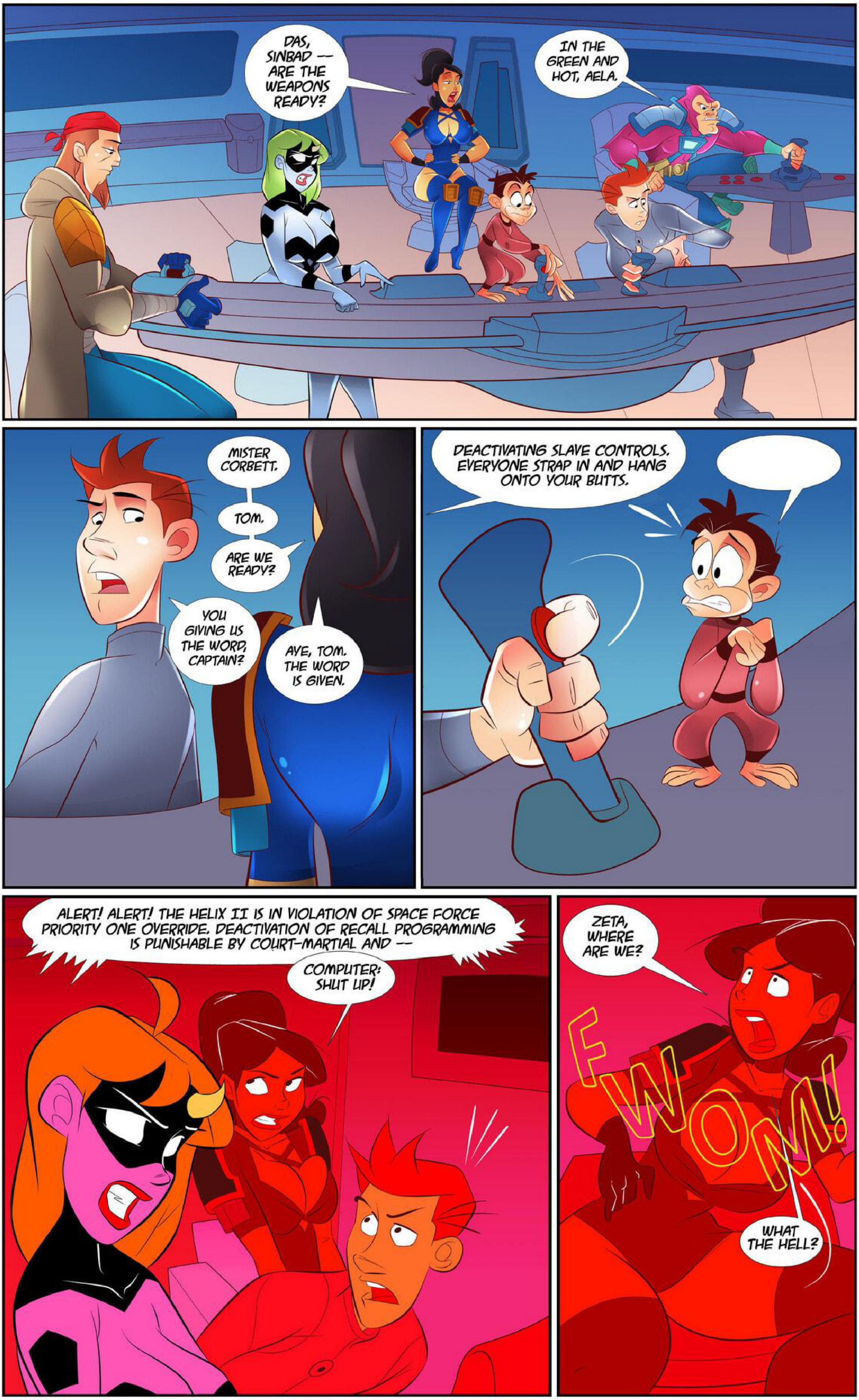

REC
STORMY DANIELS.

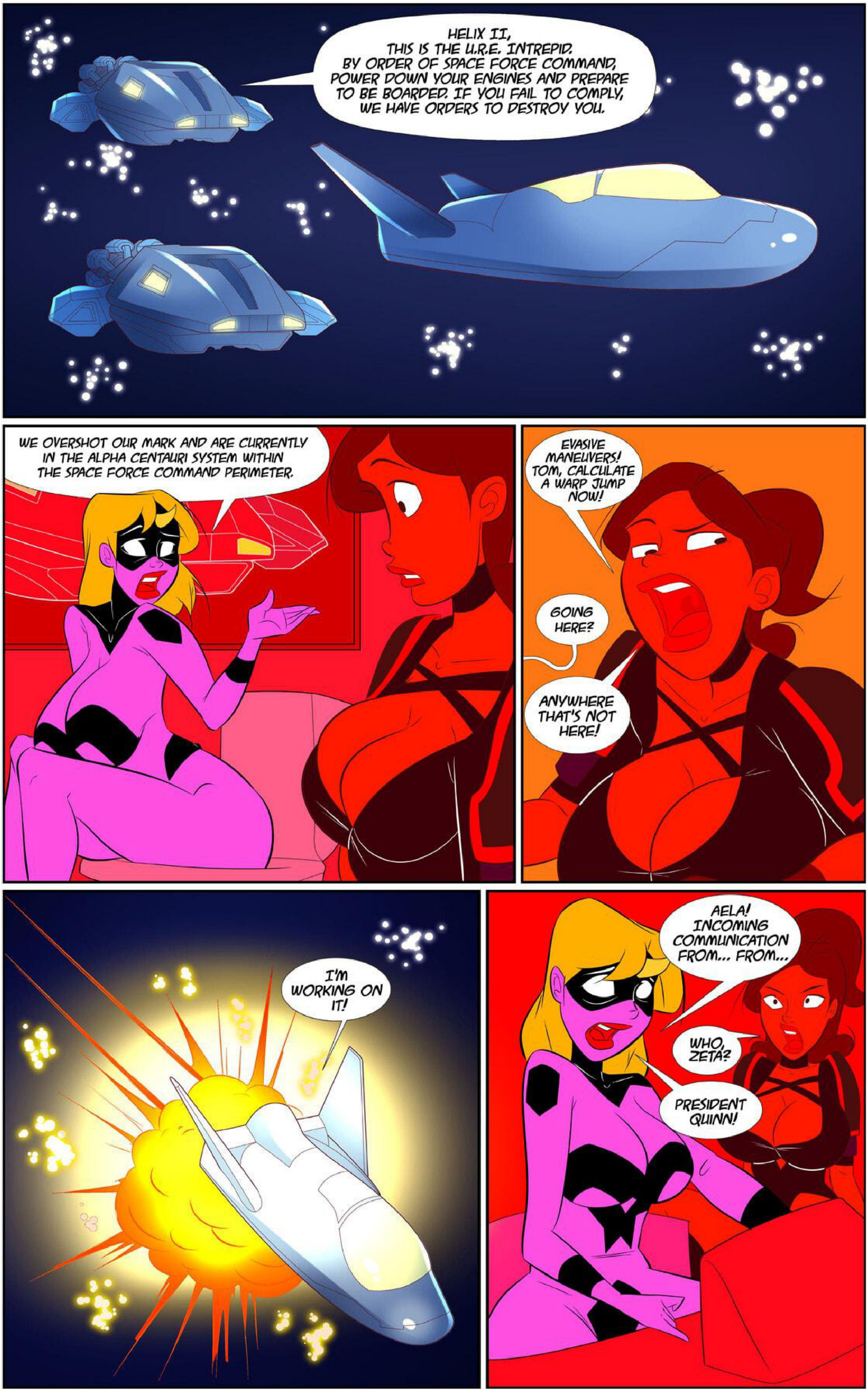

SHIT.
DANIELS WILL BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE, AND WE WILL UNCOVER THE TRUTH ABOUT HER ACTIONS AGAINST THE U.R.E. TODAY.
OUR UNION IS STRONG BECAUSE YOU ARE STRONG.
TRANSMISSION ENDS.
I DON'T BELIEVE IT. IT'S ALL LIES.
YOU SAW THE FOOTAGE.
THAT COULD BE FAKED.
DIDN'T LOOK FAKE, MY FRIEND. AND THE PRESIDENT'S FACE!
IT'S LIES! SPACE FORCE HAS HAD IT IN FOR STORMY FOR DECADES. THEY DON'T LIKE HER BECAUSE SHE'S FROM OLD EARTH AND HAS SEEN WHAT IT WAS LIKE BEFORE THE U.R.E. RULED.
THAT SO?
C'MON! DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T FELT MARGINALIZED.
SEVEN HELLS! YOU HAD TO RESIGN YOUR COMMISSION TO BEAT AROUND THE GALAXY WITH US!
IF WE BELIEVE STORMY IS INNOCENT -- AND I'M NOT SAYING SHE IS WE CANNOT ALLOW THE HELIX II TO RETURN TO EARTH. WE'LL BE TRAPPED AND UNABLE TO HELP HER.
TIME TO EARTH?
FOUR HOURS, 20 MINUTES.
CAN WE REGAIN CONTROL? DISABLE THE SLAVE CIRCUITS?

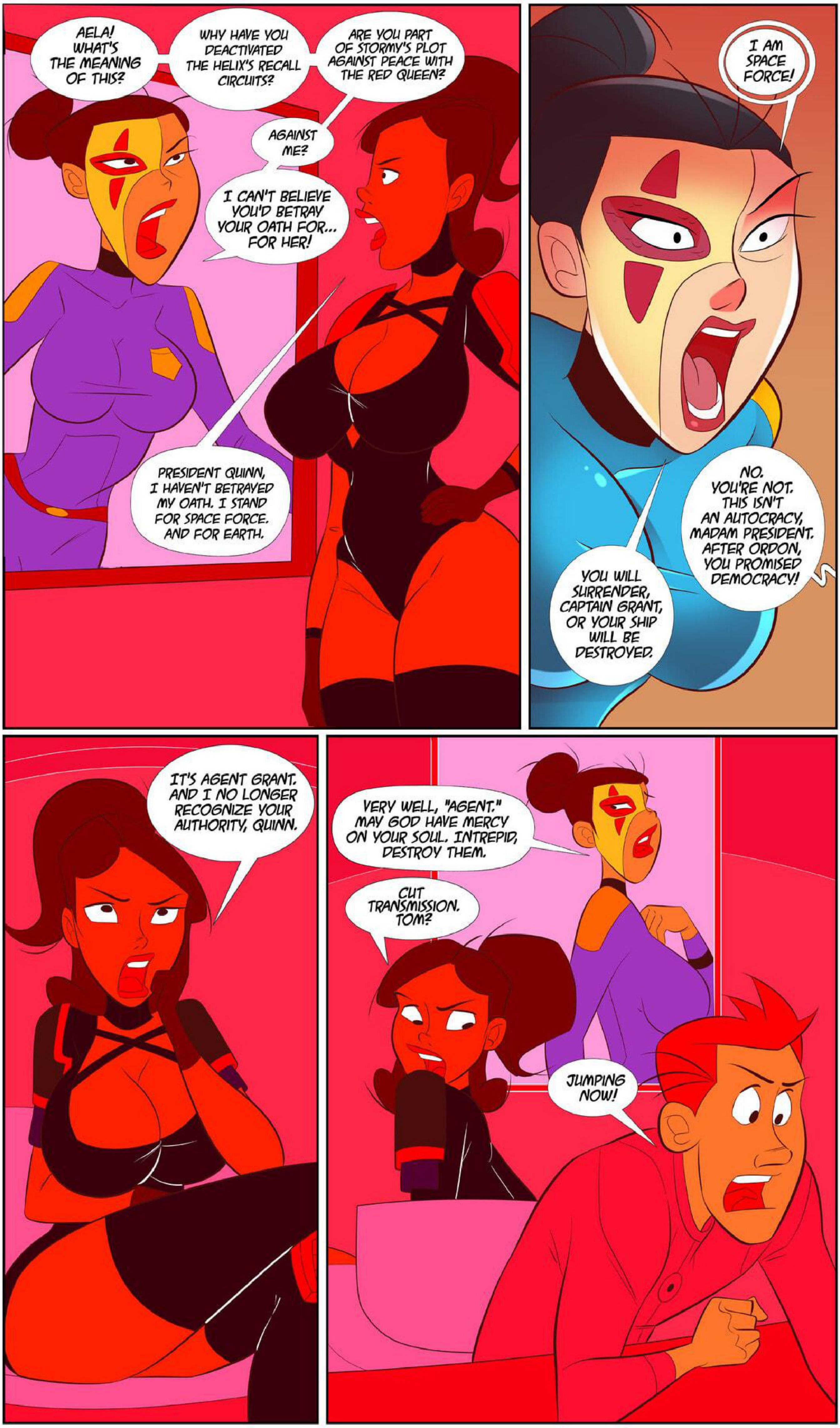

IF WE DO, IT'LL BE TREASON, AELA.
SWAP!
OW!
YOU REALIZE THAT, RIGHT?
NO, MISTER CORB --
TOM IS RIGHT. WE DO THIS... WE RUN? THEY'LL HUNT US.
I'M NOT TOO KEEN ON TAKING ORDERS ANYWAY, LUV, ESPECIALLY WHEN I DON'T AGREE WITH THEM. AND SOMETHING IS OFF HERE, YEAH?
FINE.
ZETA, YOU AND TOM SEE IF THE SLAVE CIRCUITS CAN BE BYPASSED OR DISABLED --
BUT DON'T TURN THEM OFF YET. WE'LL WAIT FOR THE RIGHT TIME. DAS AND SINBAD?
MAKE SURE OUR WEAPONS SYSTEMS ARE AT PEAK EFFICIENCY. YOU ALL HAVE TWO HOURS.
AND YOU?
I'LL BE IN MY QUARTERS. I HAVE A FEW CALLS TO MAKE.

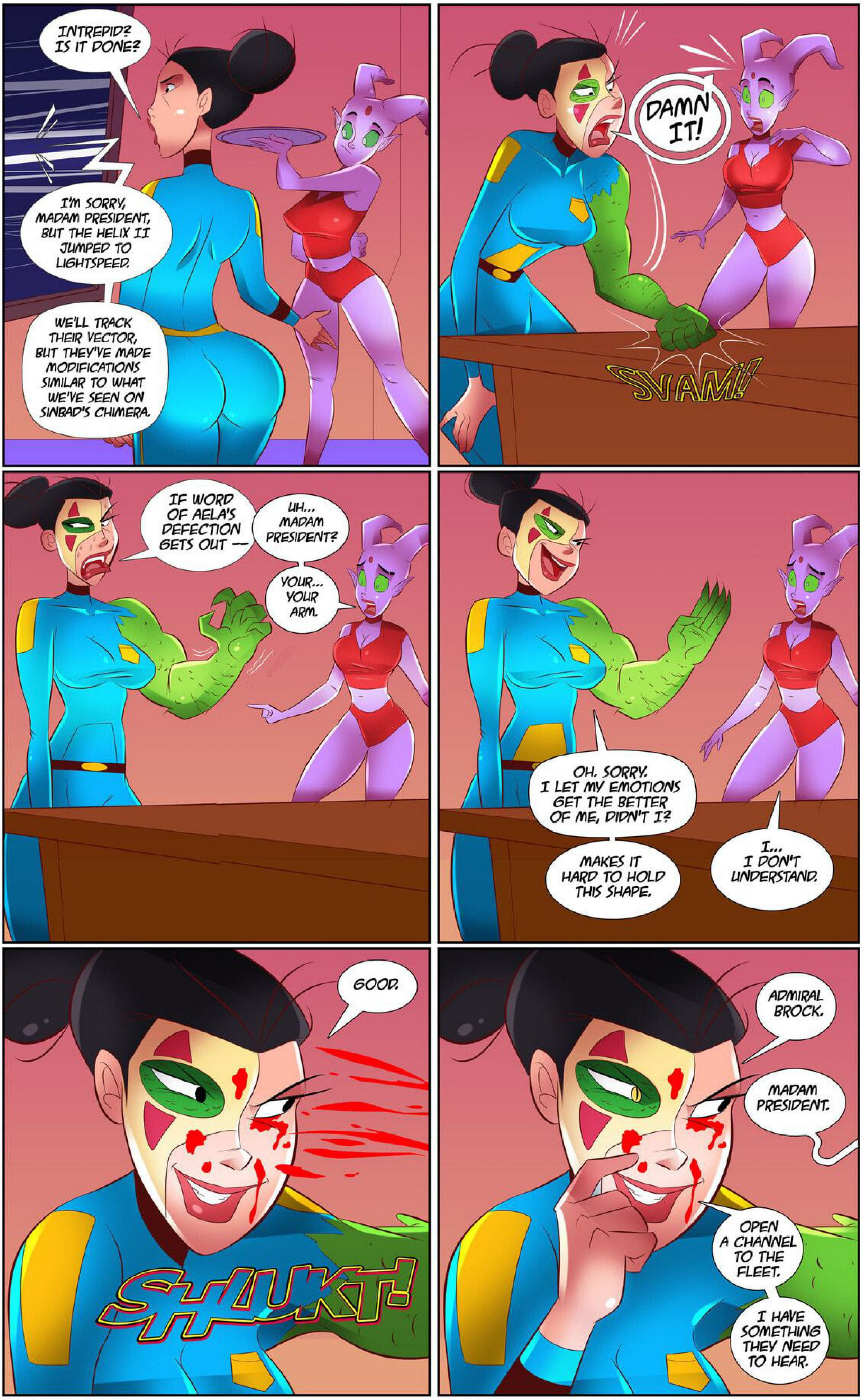

CAPTAIN'S PERSONAL LOG: ALL MY LIFE, I DREAMED OF FLYING AMONG THE STARS, COMMANDING A STARSHIP CREWED BY ADVENTURERS AS CURIOUS AS I AM.
COMPUTER: PLAY BADGE CAM RECORDING FROM LAST MEETING WITH STORMY DANIELS.
PLAYING.
MY DISPLACEMENT IN TIME WAS AN OPPORTUNITY, BUT IT HAD A PRICE. I LOST EVERYONE I EVER LOVED TO TIME. THE HIERARCHY -- AND STABILITY -- OF THE MILITARY BECAME MY DEFAULT. WHEN I HAD TO MAKE DIFFICULT CHOICES, I RELIED ON MY TRAINING.
I QUIT!
SKRREE-PLLLLPT!
STORMY?
WHAT'S GOING ON? AND WHY ARE YOU NAKED?
I'M SICK OF DEALING WITH #%&@ IS WHAT'S GOING ON, AELA!
AND I'M NOT NAKED. THESE ARE EXPENSIVE --
BUT WHAT WE'RE PLANNING? AM I MAKING MY DECISION BASED ON ADHERENCE TO THOSE IDEALS, OR AM I LETTING MY HEART GUIDE ME?
YOU'RE IN YOUR UNDERWEAR AND OUT OF UNIFORM, AND I --
OH, WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT THAT UNIFORM? I'M SICK OF FIGHTING BUREAUCRATS AND HAGGLING FOR EVERYTHING TO KEEP MY CREW HAPPY. I HAVE MY OWN FORTUNE. CONSIDER ME RETIRED!
STORMY IS MY FRIEND, PERHAPS MY ONLY CLOSE FRIEND AMONG A CREW OF MISFITS THROWN TOGETHER BY FATE. I CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER: STORMY, DID YOU SEE THIS COMING?
YOU KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.
COMPUTER: FREEZE VIDEO.
I BELIEVE YOU DID.

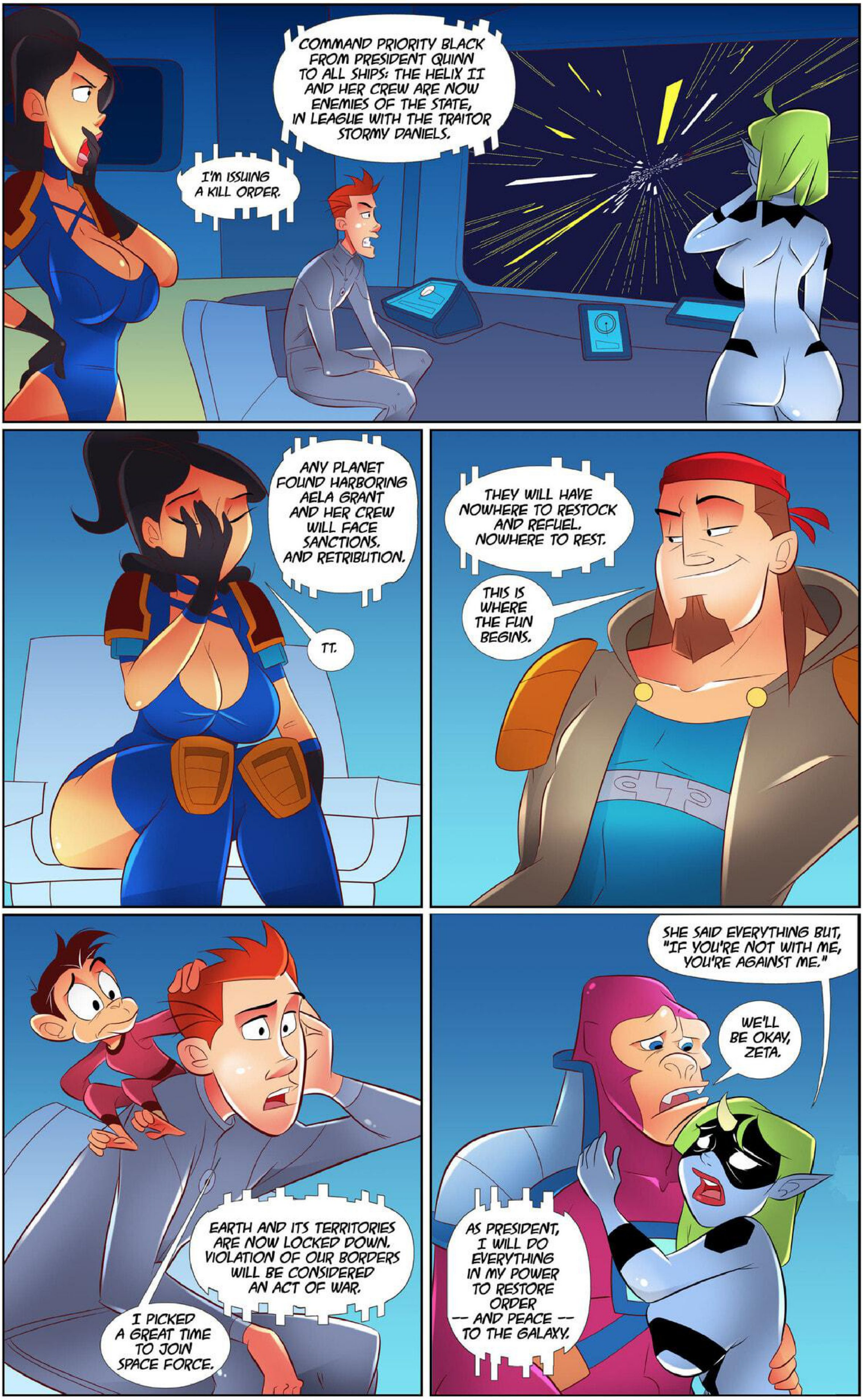

COMPUTER: ADVANCE VIDEO TO MY REASSIGNMENT FROM COMMANDER TO AGENT.
LOOK, "AGENT" GRANT. A STORM IS COMING, AND I NEED SOMEONE I CAN TRUST OPERATING OUTSIDE OF STANDARD SPACE FORCE PROTOCOLS.
BUT WE'RE NOT OPERATING OUTSIDE OF MILITARY PROTOCOLS, ARE WE? OUR FORCED RECALL TO EARTH PROVES THAT.
AND STORMY? WELL...
I HOPE YOU ENJOYED HER PERFORMANCE. SHE CHOSE YOU FOR THIS ROLE, AFTER ALL.
WILL YOU ACCEPT?
GOTCHA.
TOM? HOW'S THE BYPASS COMING?
SQUEEP!
WE GOT IT AND ... UH... HAD TO...BOPS! ... ACCESS SOME CONDUITS IN A RATHER TIGHT SPACE, BUT BOPS HELPED.
BUT NOW I'M GONNA PUSH HIM OUT AN AIRLOCK.

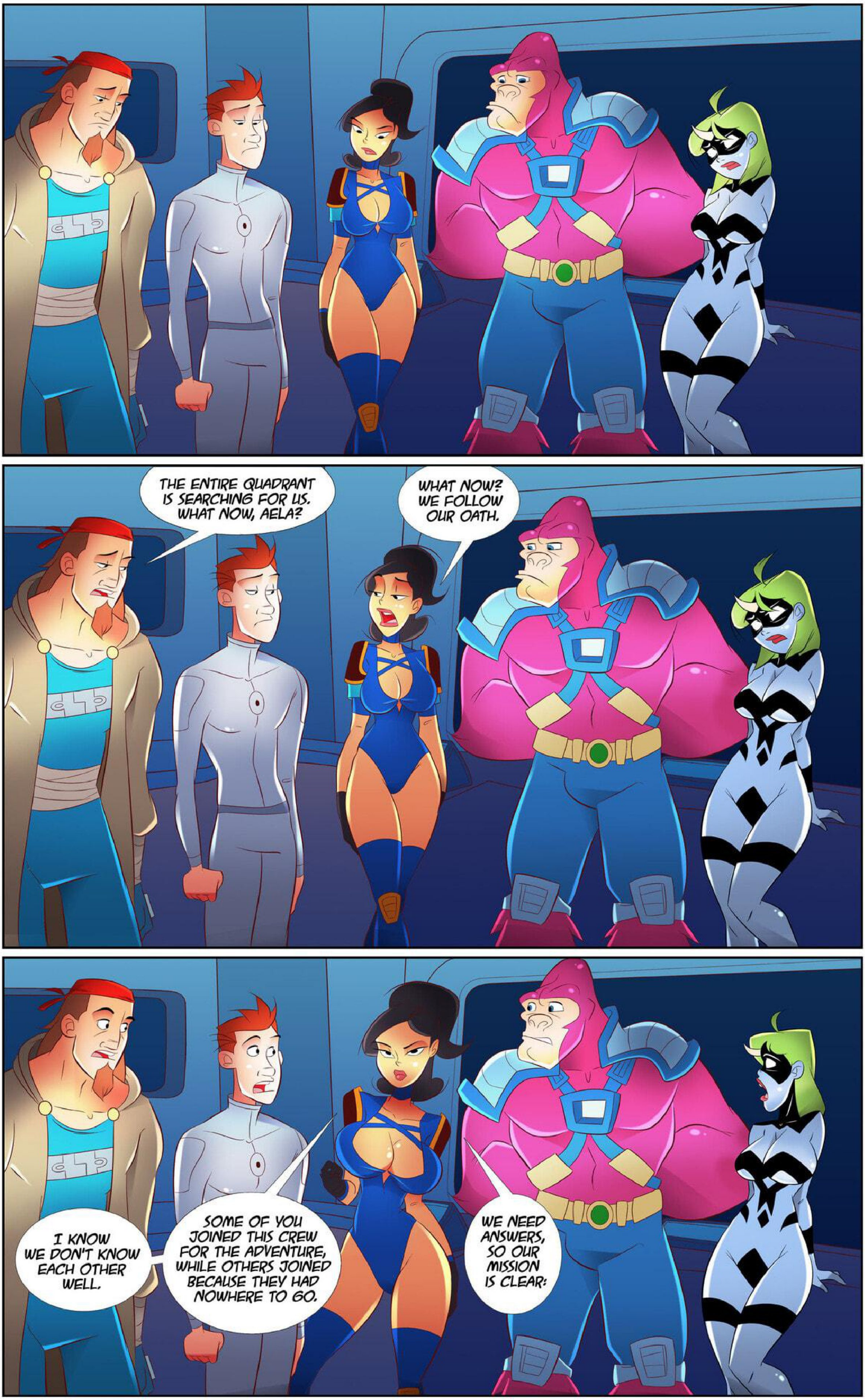

DAS, SINBAD — ARE THE WEAPONS READY?
IN THE GREEN AND HOT, AELA.
MISTER CORBETT.
TOM.
ARE WE READY?
YOU GIVING US THE WORD, CAPTAIN?
AYE, TOM. THE WORD IS GIVEN.
DEACTIVATING SLAVE CONTROLS. EVERYONE STRAP IN AND HANG ONTO YOUR BUTTS.
ALERT! ALERT! THE HELIX II IS IN VIOLATION OF SPACE FORCE PRIORITY ONE OVERRIDE. DEACTIVATION OF RECALL PROGRAMMING IS PUNISHABLE BY COURT-MARTIAL AND —
COMPUTER: SHUT UP!
ZETA, WHERE ARE WE?
FWOM!
WHAT THE HELL?

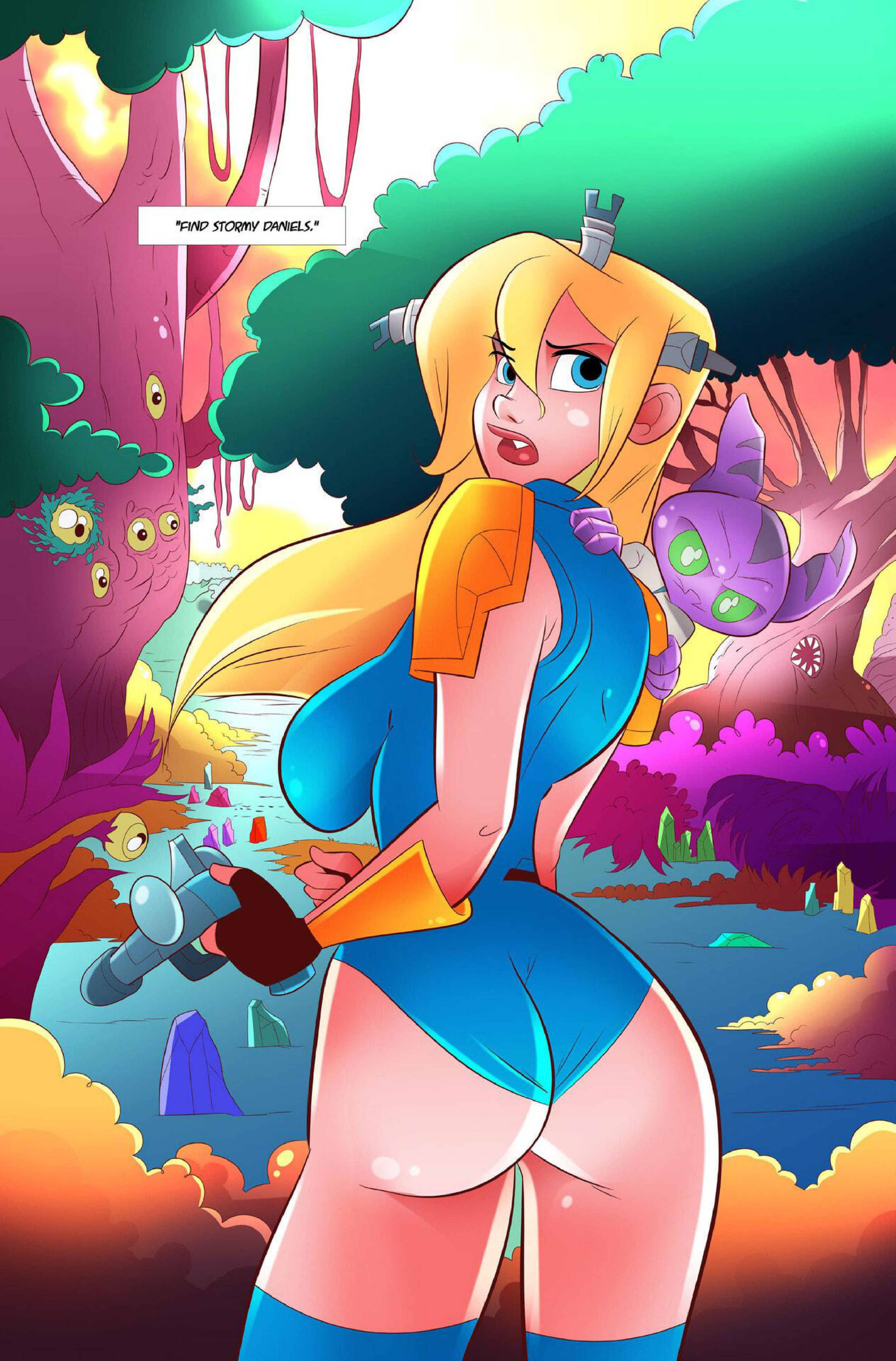

HELIX II, THIS IS THE U.R.E. INTREPID. BY ORDER OF SPACE FORCE COMMAND, POWER DOWN YOUR ENGINES AND PREPARE TO BE BOARDED. IF YOU FAIL TO COMPLY, WE HAVE ORDERS TO DESTROY YOU.
WE OVERSHOT OUR MARK AND ARE CURRENTLY IN THE ALPHA CENTAURI SYSTEM WITHIN THE SPACE FORCE COMMAND PERIMETER.
EVASIVE MANEUVERS! TOM, CALCULATE A WARP JUMP NOW!
GOING HERE?
ANYWHERE THAT'S NOT HERE!
I'M WORKING ON IT!
AELA! INCOMING COMMUNICATION FROM... FROM...
WHO, ZETA?
PRESIDENT QUINN!


AELA! WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
WHY HAVE YOU DEACTIVATED THE HELIX'S RECALL CIRCUITS?
ARE YOU PART OF STORMY'S PLOT AGAINST PEACE WITH THE RED QUEEN?
AGAINST ME?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D BETRAY YOUR OATH FOR... FOR HER!
PRESIDENT QUINN, I HAVEN'T BETRAYED MY OATH. I STAND FOR SPACE FORCE. AND FOR EARTH.
I AM SPACE FORCE!
NO. YOU'RE NOT. THIS ISN'T AN AUTOCRACY, MADAM PRESIDENT. AFTER ORDON, YOU PROMISED DEMOCRACY!
YOU WILL SURRENDER, CAPTAIN GRANT, OR YOUR SHIP WILL BE DESTROYED.
IT'S AGENT GRANT. AND I NO LONGER RECOGNIZE YOUR AUTHORITY, QUINN.
VERY WELL, "AGENT." MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOUL. INTREPID, DESTROY THEM.
CUT TRANSMISSION. TOM?
JUMPING NOW!

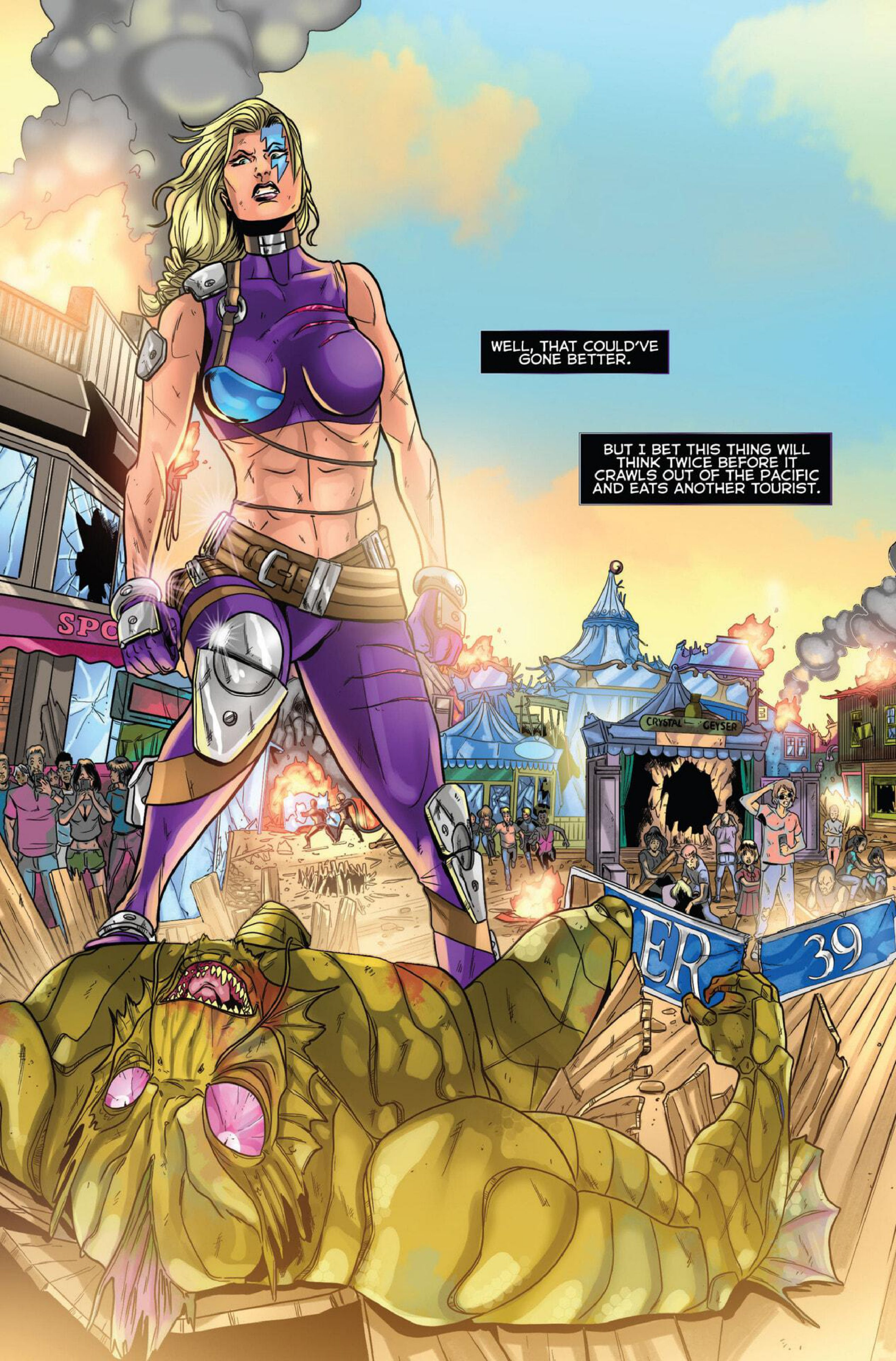

INTREPID? IS IT DONE?
I'M SORRY, MADAM PRESIDENT, BUT THE HELIX II JUMPED TO LIGHTSPEED.
WE'LL TRACK THEIR VECTOR, BUT THEY'VE MADE MODIFICATIONS SIMILAR TO WHAT WE'VE SEEN ON SINBAD'S CHIMERA.
DAMN IT!
SVAM!
IF WORD OF AELA'S DEFECTION GETS OUT —
UH... MADAM PRESIDENT?
YOUR... YOUR ARM.
OH. SORRY. I LET MY EMOTIONS GET THE BETTER OF ME, DIDN'T I?
MAKES IT HARD TO HOLD THIS SHAPE.
I... I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
GOOD.
SHLUKT!
ADMIRAL BROCK.
MADAM PRESIDENT.
OPEN A CHANNEL TO THE FLEET.
I HAVE SOMETHING THEY NEED TO HEAR.

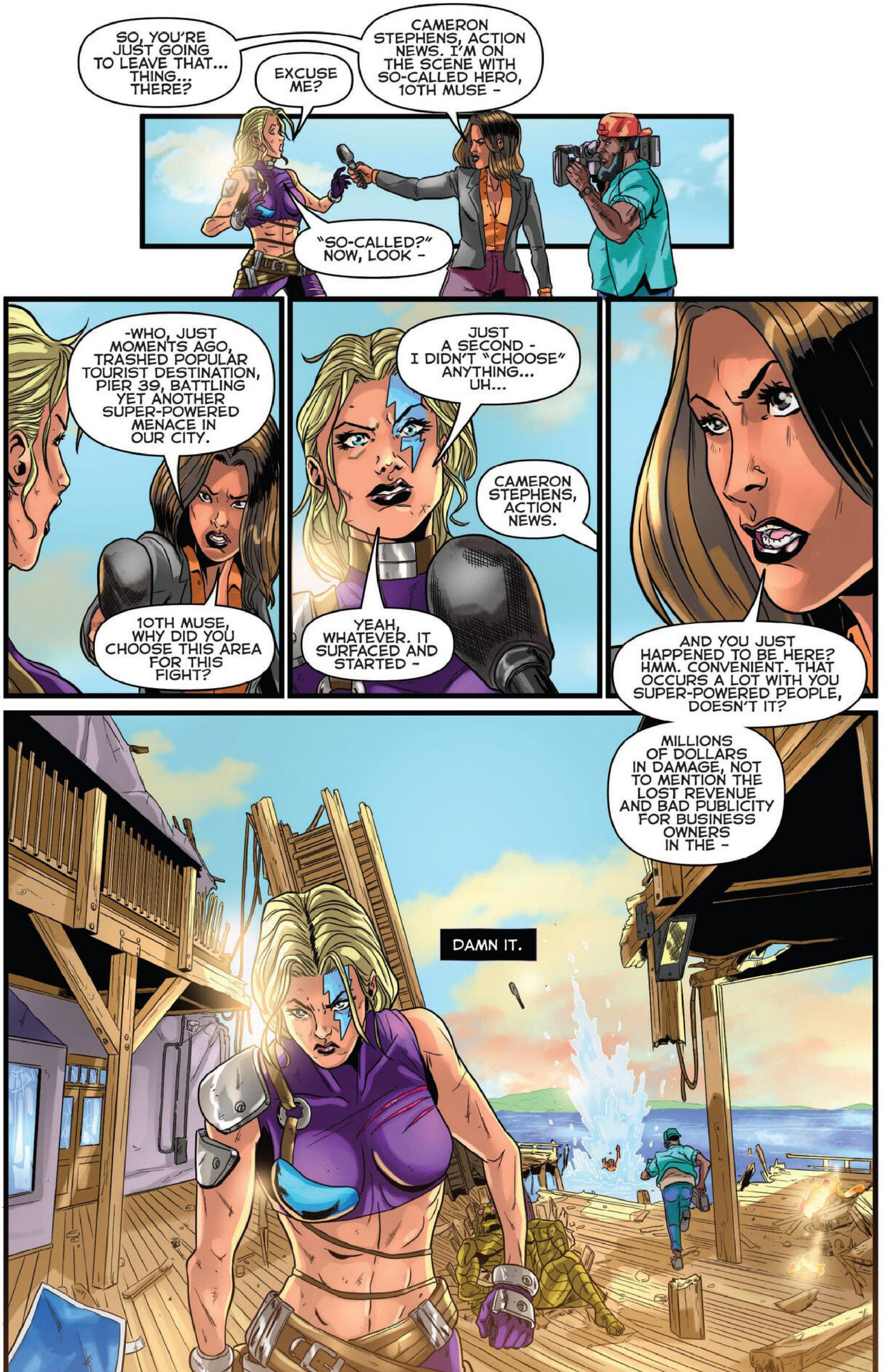

COMMAND PRIORITY BLACK FROM PRESIDENT QUINN TO ALL SHIPS: THE HELIX II AND HER CREW ARE NOW ENEMIES OF THE STATE, IN LEAGUE WITH THE TRAITOR STORMY DANIELS.
I'M ISSUING A KILL ORDER.
ANY PLANET FOUND HARBORING AELA GRANT AND HER CREW WILL FACE SANCTIONS. AND RETRIBUTION.
TT.
THEY WILL HAVE NOWHERE TO RESTOCK AND REFUEL. NOWHERE TO REST.
THIS IS WHERE THE FUN BEGINS.
EARTH AND ITS TERRITORIES ARE NOW LOCKED DOWN. VIOLATION OF OUR BORDERS WILL BE CONSIDERED AN ACT OF WAR.
I PICKED A GREAT TIME TO JOIN SPACE FORCE.
SHE SAID EVERYTHING BUT, "IF YOU'RE NOT WITH ME, YOU'RE AGAINST ME."
WE'LL BE OKAY, ZETA.
AS PRESIDENT, I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO RESTORE ORDER -- AND PEACE -- TO THE GALAXY.

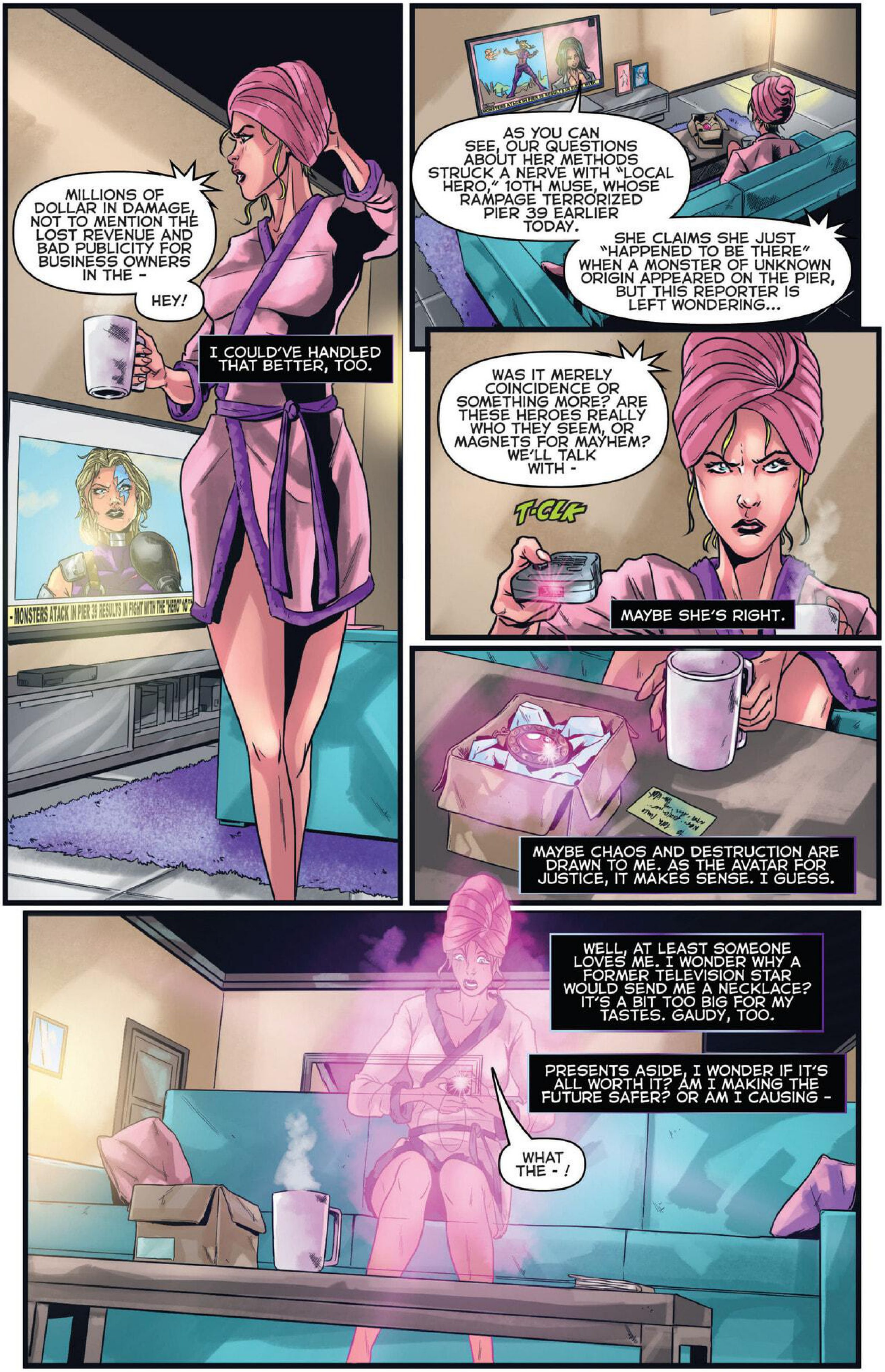

THE ENTIRE QUADRANT IS SEARCHING FOR US. WHAT NOW, AELA?
WHAT NOW? WE FOLLOW OUR OATH.
I KNOW WE DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER WELL.
SOME OF YOU JOINED THIS CREW FOR THE ADVENTURE, WHILE OTHERS JOINED BECAUSE THEY HAD NOWHERE TO GO.
WE NEED ANSWERS, SO OUR MISSION IS CLEAR:

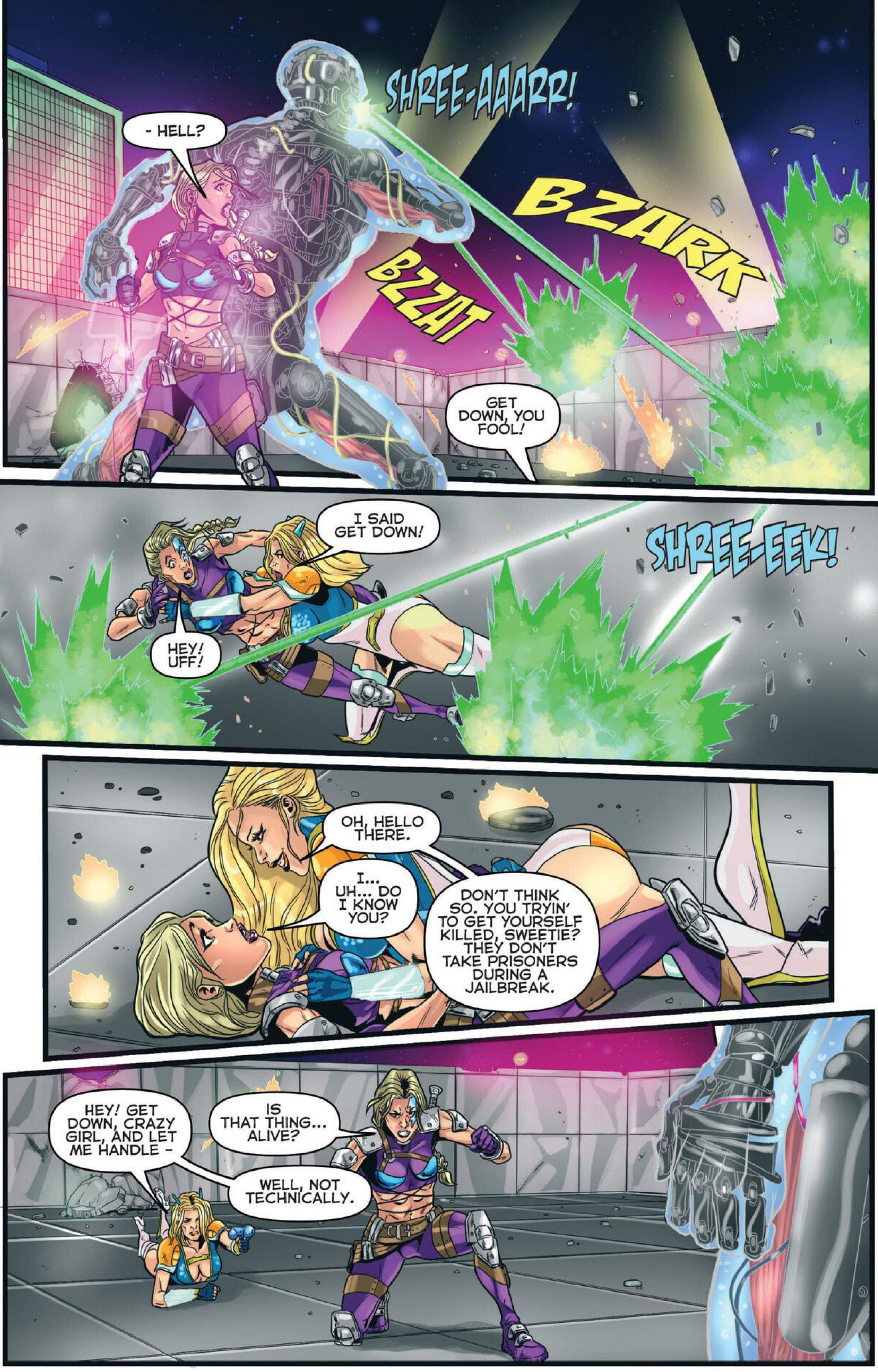

"FIND STORMY DANIELS."

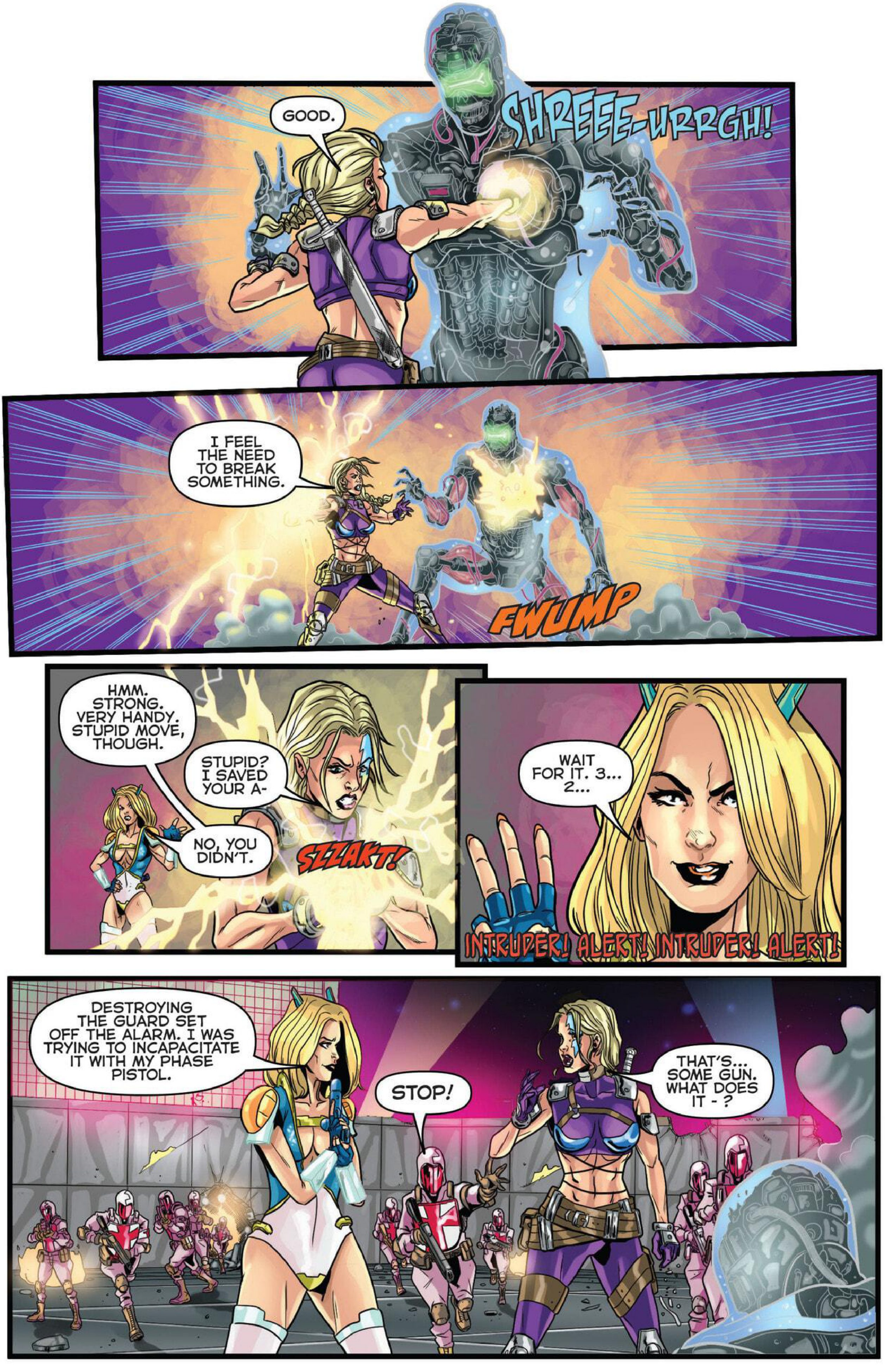
MISSION
TWELVE
WANTED
FOR MURDER

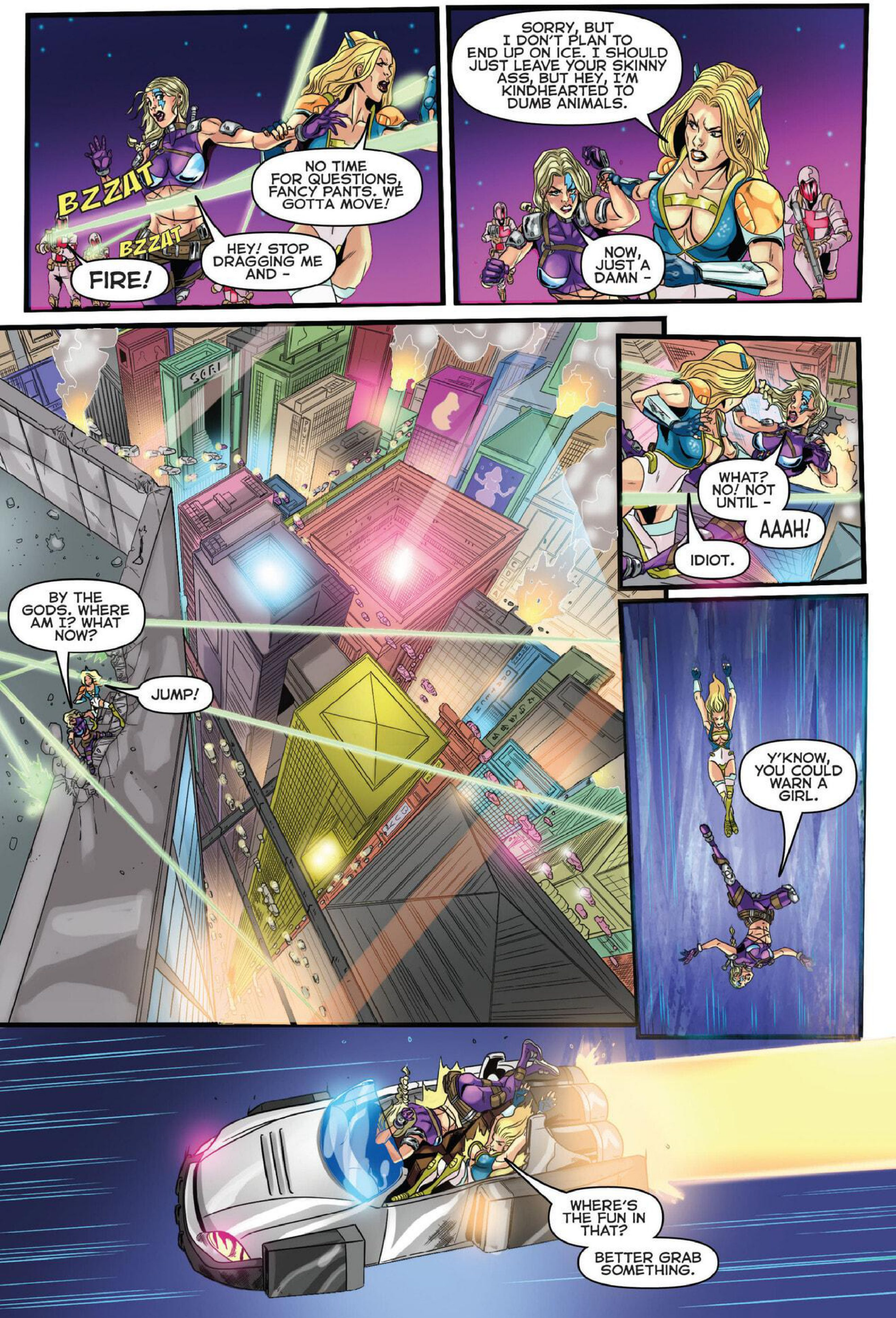

WELL, THAT COULD'VE GONE BETTER.
BUT I BET THIS THING WILL THINK TWICE BEFORE IT CRAWLS OUT OF THE PACIFIC AND EATS ANOTHER TOURIST.
SPO
CRYSTAL GEYSER
ER 39

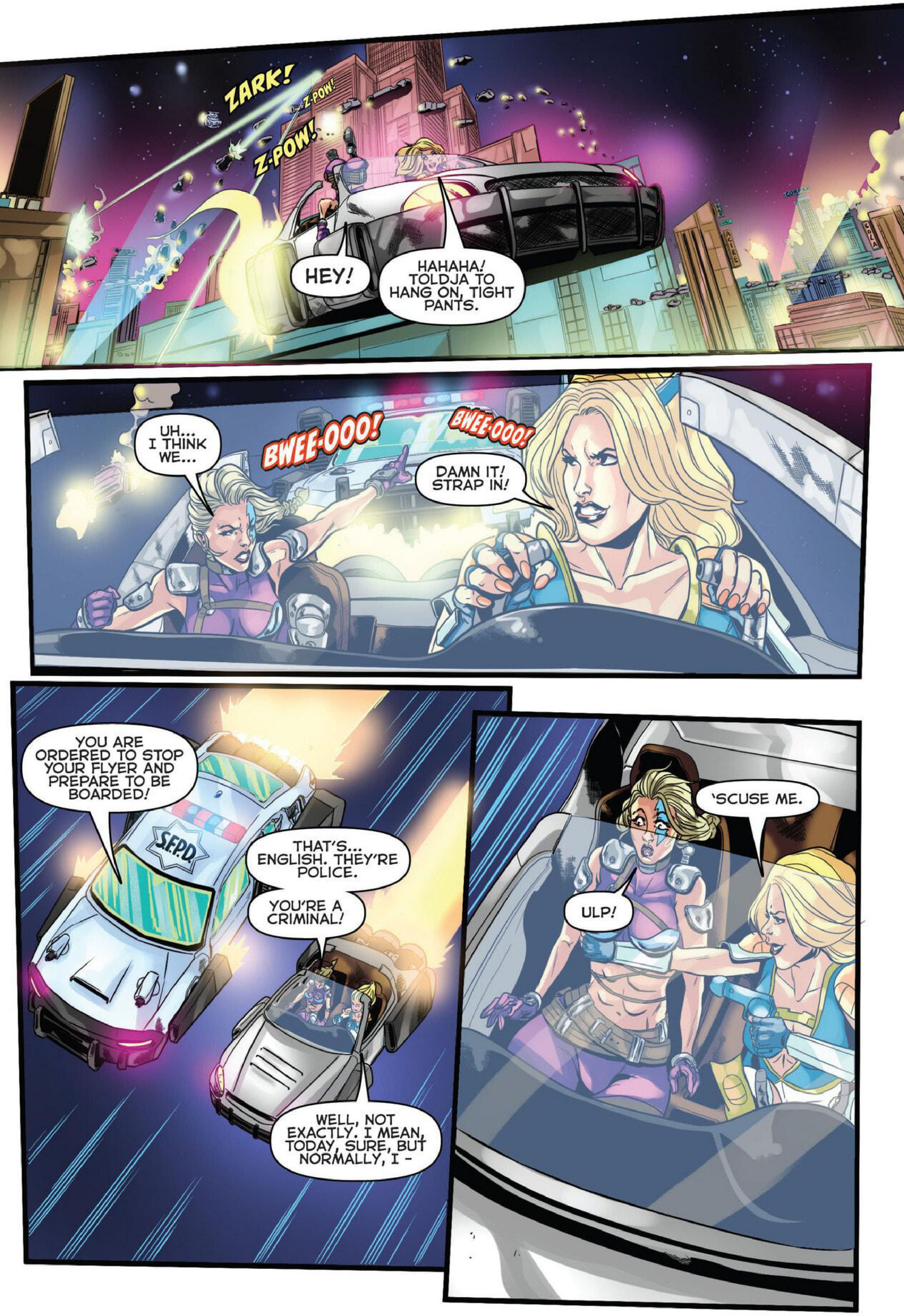

SO, YOU'RE JUST GOING TO LEAVE THAT... THING... THERE?
EXCUSE ME?
CAMERON STEPHENS, ACTION NEWS. I'M ON THE SCENE WITH SO-CALLED HERO, 10TH MUSE –
"SO-CALLED?" NOW, LOOK –
-WHO, JUST MOMENTS AGO, TRASHED POPULAR TOURIST DESTINATION, PIER 39, BATTLING YET ANOTHER SUPER-POWERED MENACE IN OUR CITY.
10TH MUSE, WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THIS AREA FOR THIS FIGHT?
JUST A SECOND - I DIDN'T "CHOOSE" ANYTHING... UH...
CAMERON STEPHENS, ACTION NEWS.
YEAH, WHATEVER. IT SURFACED AND STARTED –
AND YOU JUST HAPPENED TO BE HERE? HMM. CONVENIENT. THAT OCCURS A LOT WITH YOU SUPER-POWERED PEOPLE, DOESN'T IT?
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN DAMAGE, NOT TO MENTION THE LOST REVENUE AND BAD PUBLICITY FOR BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE –
DAMN IT.

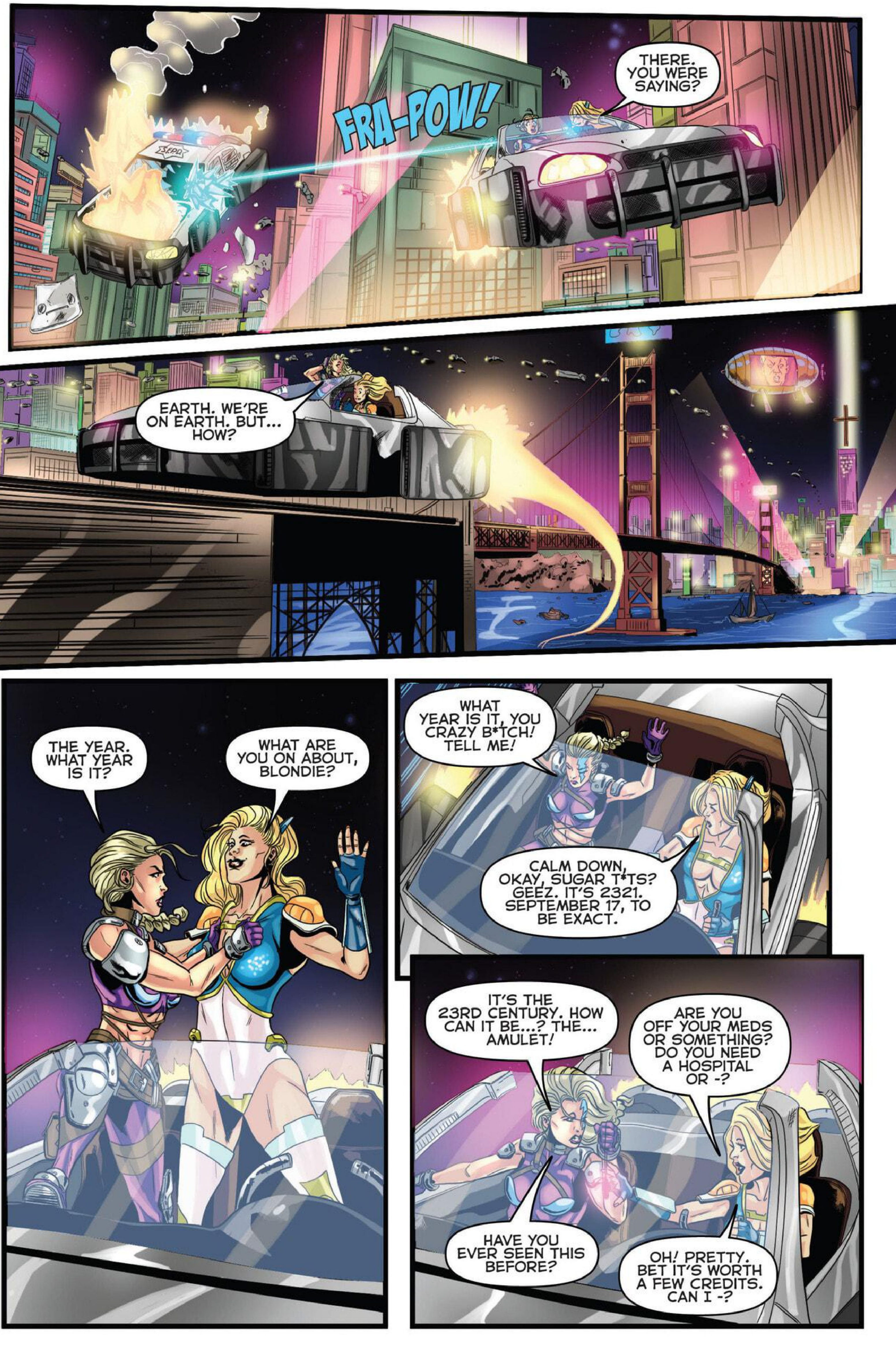

MILLIONS OF DOLLAR IN DAMAGE, NOT TO MENTION THE LOST REVENUE AND BAD PUBLICITY FOR BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE -
HEY!
I COULD'VE HANDLED THAT BETTER, TOO.
- MONSTERS ATTACK IN PIER 39 RESULTS IN FIGHT WITH THE "HERO" 10T
AS YOU CAN SEE, OUR QUESTIONS ABOUT HER METHODS STRUCK A NERVE WITH "LOCAL HERO," 10TH MUSE, WHOSE RAMPAGE TERRORIZED PIER 39 EARLIER TODAY.
SHE CLAIMS SHE JUST "HAPPENED TO BE THERE" WHEN A MONSTER OF UNKNOWN ORIGIN APPEARED ON THE PIER, BUT THIS REPORTER IS LEFT WONDERING...
WAS IT MERELY COINCIDENCE OR SOMETHING MORE? ARE THESE HEROES REALLY WHO THEY SEEM, OR MAGNETS FOR MAYHEM? WE'LL TALK WITH -
T-CLK
MAYBE SHE'S RIGHT.
MAYBE CHAOS AND DESTRUCTION ARE DRAWN TO ME. AS THE AVATAR FOR JUSTICE, IT MAKES SENSE. I GUESS.
WELL, AT LEAST SOMEONE LOVES ME. I WONDER WHY A FORMER TELEVISION STAR WOULD SEND ME A NECKLACE? IT'S A BIT TOO BIG FOR MY TASTES. GAUDY, TOO.
PRESENTS ASIDE, I WONDER IF IT'S ALL WORTH IT? AM I MAKING THE FUTURE SAFER? OR AM I CAUSING -
WHAT THE - !

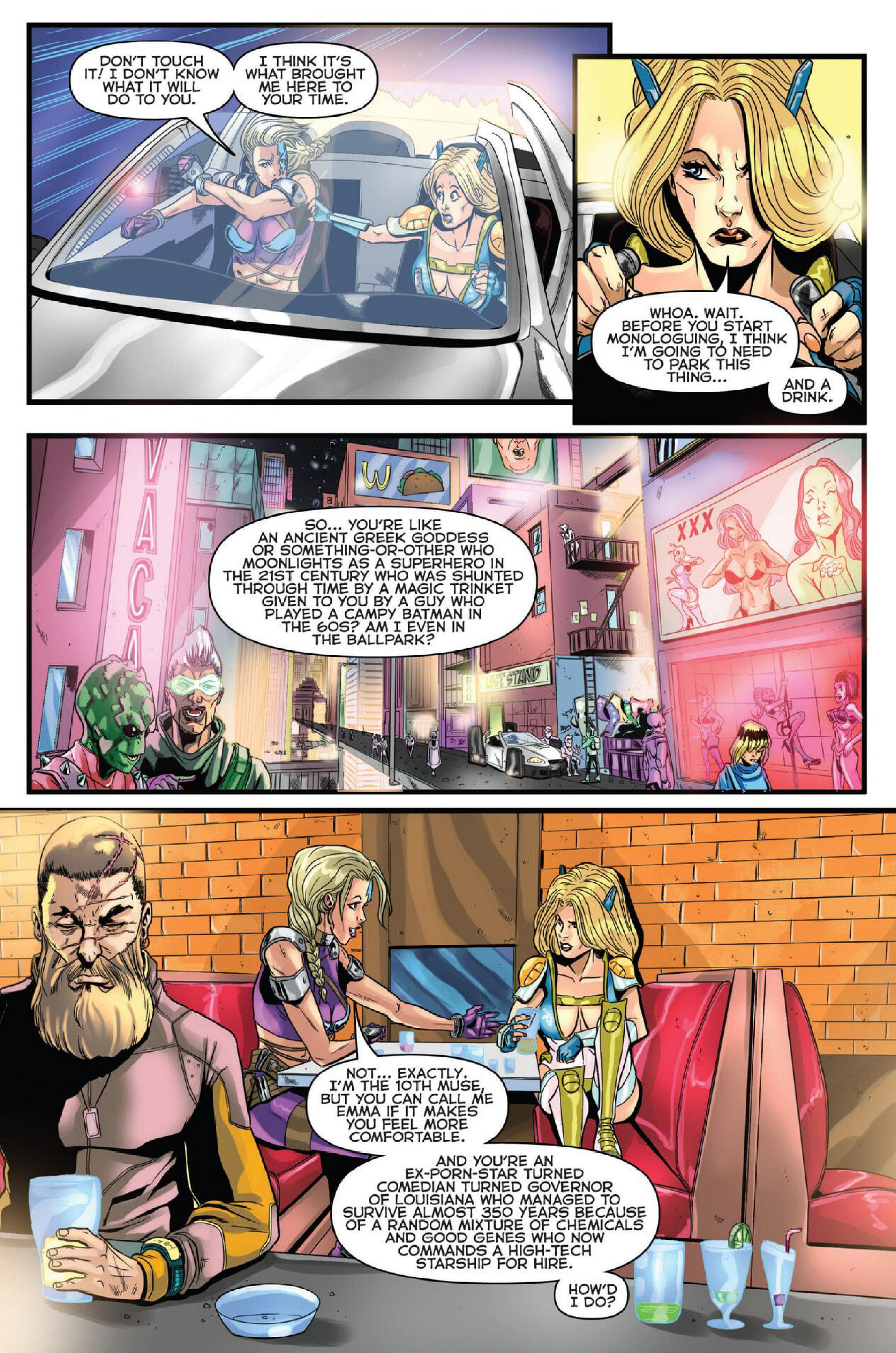

- HELL?
SHREE-AAARR!
BZARK
BZZAT
GET DOWN, YOU FOOL!
I SAID GET DOWN!
SHREE-EEK!
HEY! UFF!
OH, HELLO THERE.
I... UH... DO I KNOW YOU?
DON'T THINK SO. YOU TRYIN' TO GET YOURSELF KILLED, SWEETIE? THEY DON'T TAKE PRISONERS DURING A JAILBREAK.
HEY! GET DOWN, CRAZY GIRL, AND LET ME HANDLE -
IS THAT THING... ALIVE?
WELL, NOT TECHNICALLY.

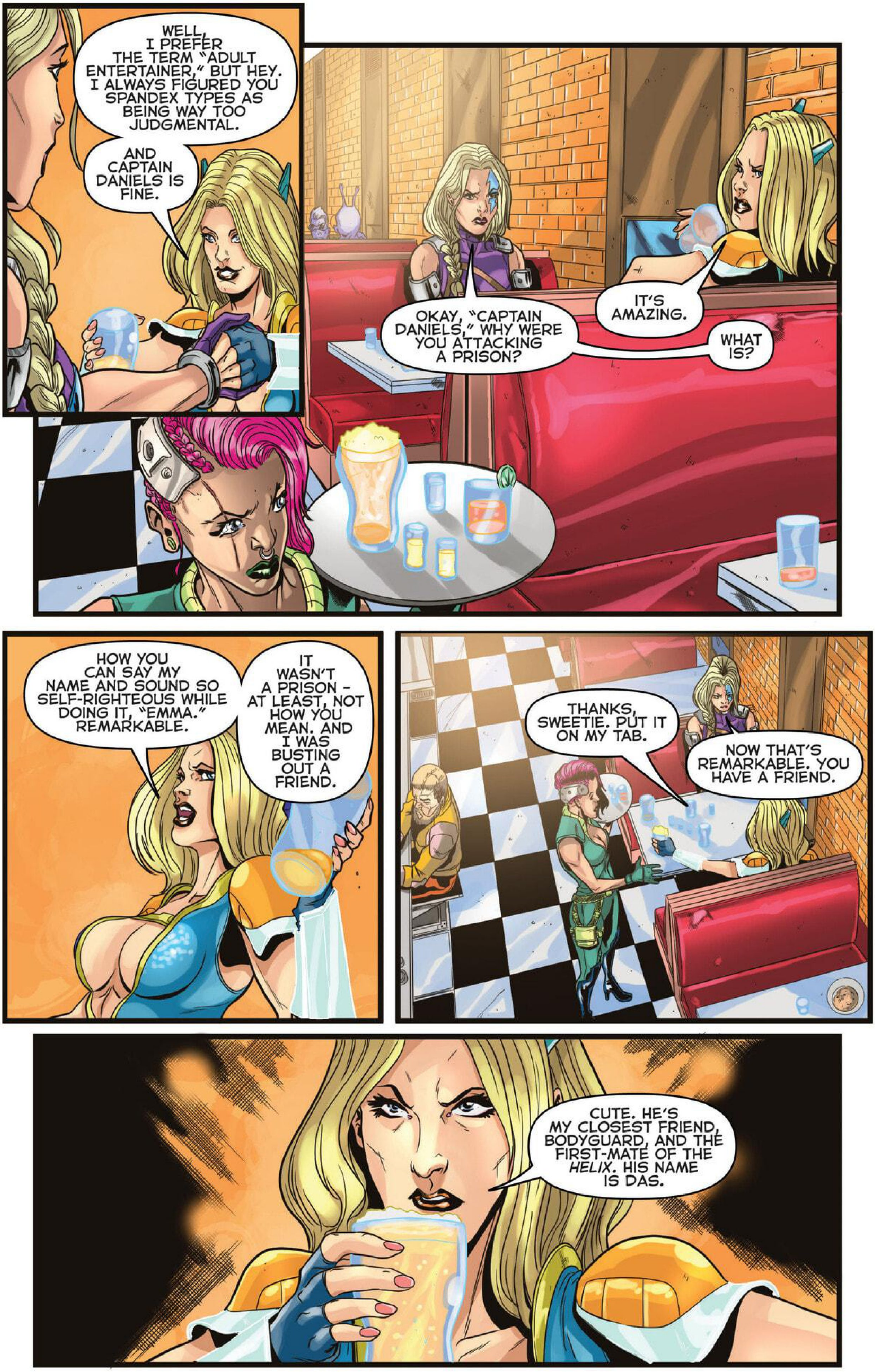

GOOD.
SHREEE-URRGH!
I FEEL THE NEED TO BREAK SOMETHING.
FWUMP
HMM. STRONG. VERY HANDY. STUPID MOVE, THOUGH.
STUPID? I SAVED YOUR A-
NO, YOU DIDN'T.
SZZAKT!
WAIT FOR IT. 3... 2...
INTRUDER! ALERT! INTRUDER! ALERT!
DESTROYING THE GUARD SET OFF THE ALARM. I WAS TRYING TO INCAPACITATE IT WITH MY PHASE PISTOL.
STOP!
THAT'S... SOME GUN. WHAT DOES IT - ?

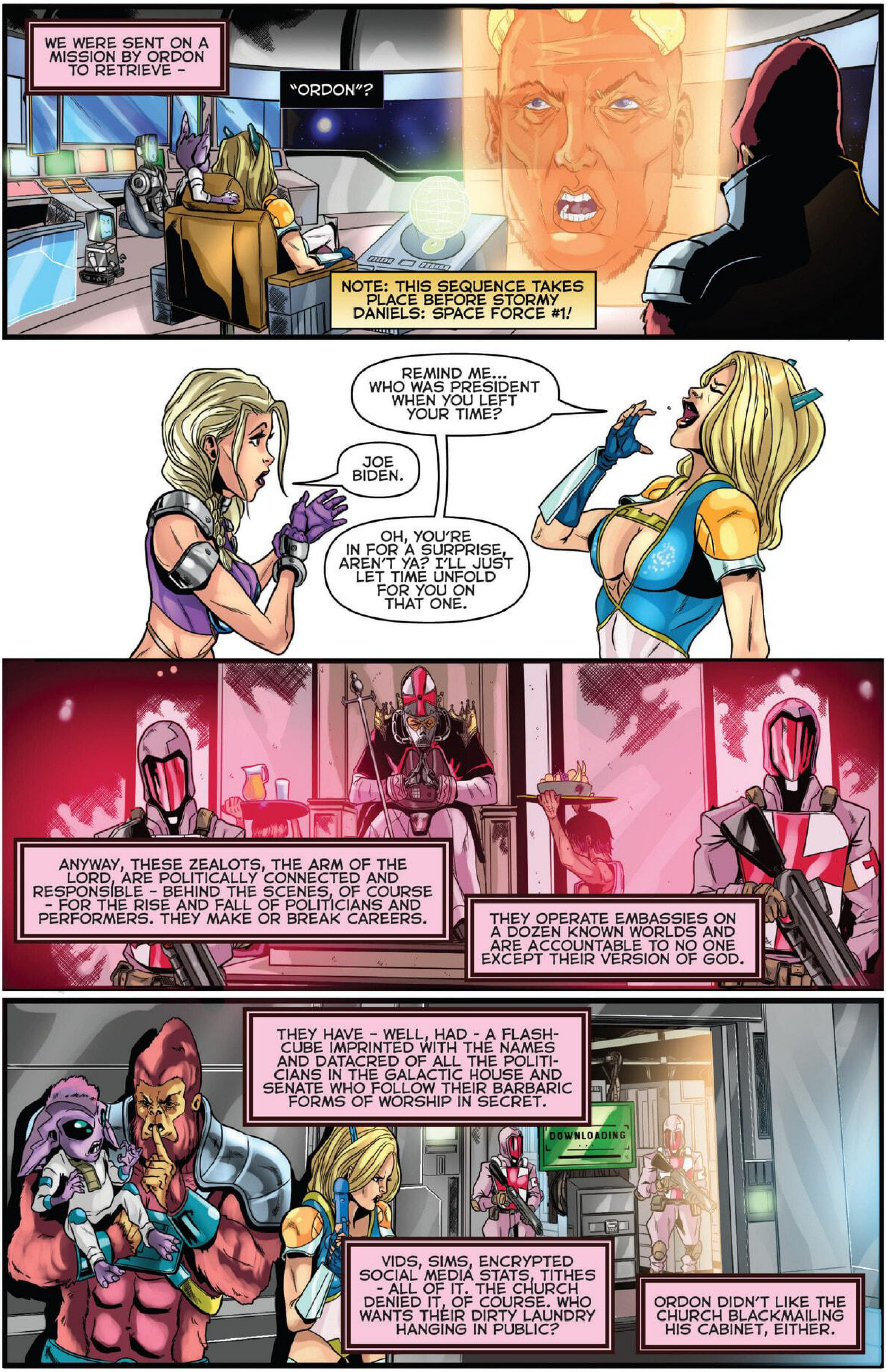

BZZAT
BZZAT
FIRE!
NO TIME FOR QUESTIONS, FANCY PANTS. WE GOTTA MOVE!
HEY! STOP DRAGGING ME AND -
SORRY, BUT I DON'T PLAN TO END UP ON ICE. I SHOULD JUST LEAVE YOUR SKINNY ASS, BUT HEY, I'M KINDHEARTED TO DUMB ANIMALS.
NOW, JUST A DAMN -
BY THE GODS. WHERE AM I? WHAT NOW?
JUMP!
WHAT? NO! NOT UNTIL -
AAAH!
IDIOT.
Y'KNOW, YOU COULD WARN A GIRL.
WHERE'S THE FUN IN THAT?
BETTER GRAB SOMETHING.

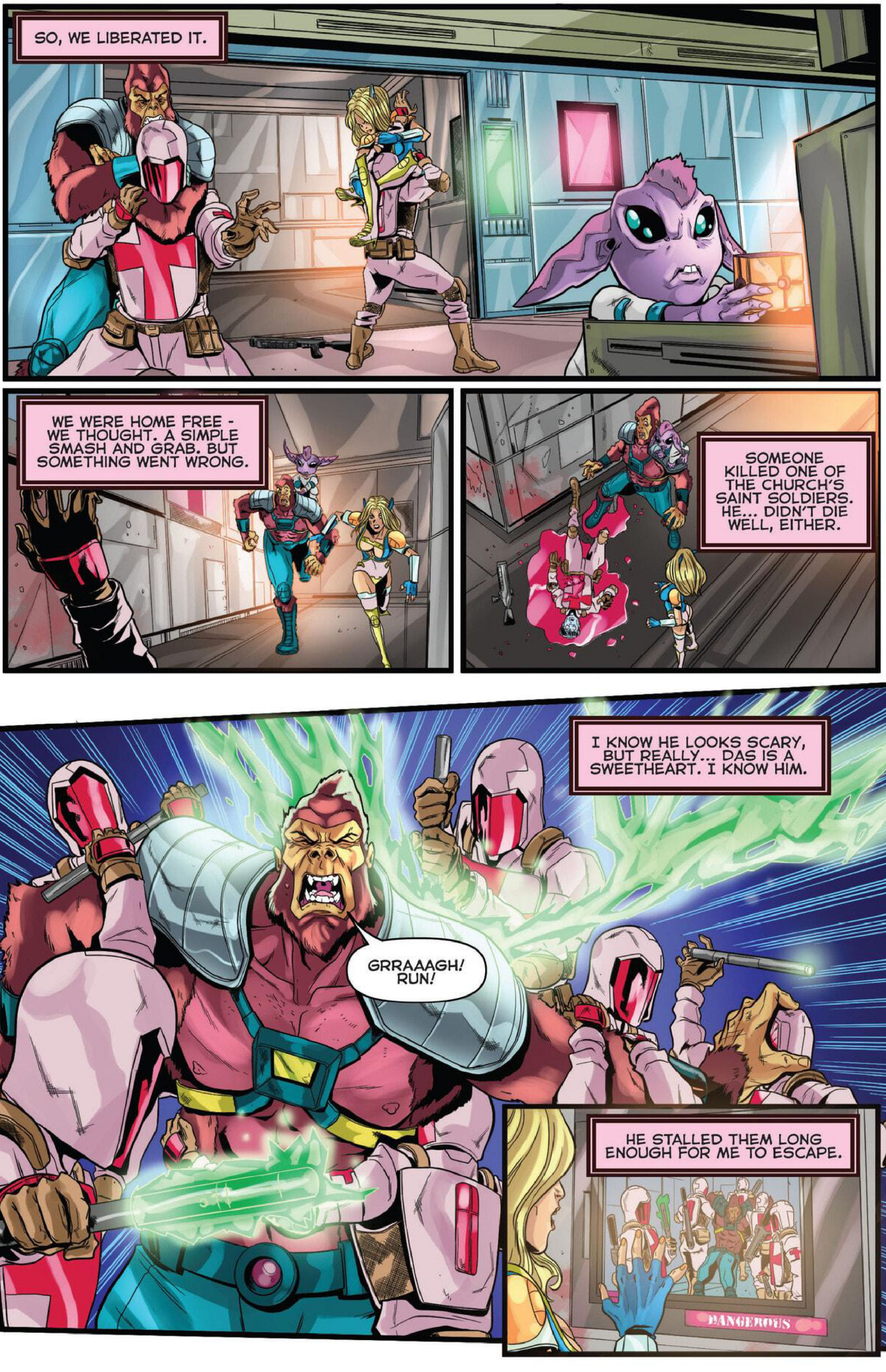

ZARK!
Z-POW!
Z-POW!
HEY!
HAHAHA! TOLDJA TO HANG ON, TIGHT PANTS.
UH... I THINK WE...
BWEE-OOO!
BWEE-OOO!
DAMN IT! STRAP IN!
YOU ARE ORDERED TO STOP YOUR FLYER AND PREPARE TO BE BOARDED!
S.F.P.D.
THAT'S... ENGLISH. THEY'RE POLICE.
YOU'RE A CRIMINAL!
WELL, NOT EXACTLY. I MEAN, TODAY, SURE, BUT NORMALLY, I -
'SCUSE ME.
ULP!

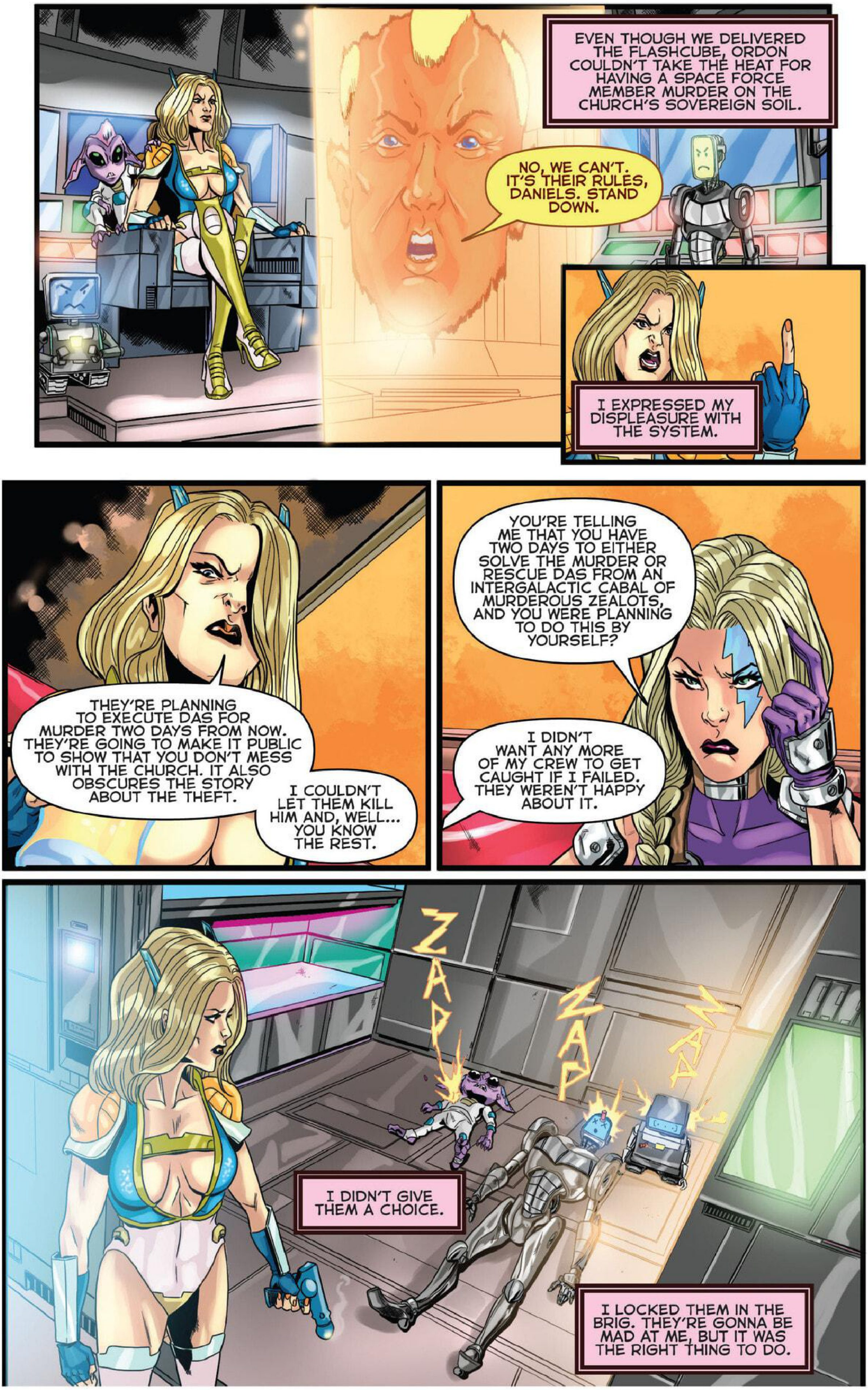

FRA-POW!
THERE. YOU WERE SAYING?
EARTH. WE'RE ON EARTH. BUT... HOW?
THE YEAR. WHAT YEAR IS IT?
WHAT ARE YOU ON ABOUT, BLONDIE?
WHAT YEAR IS IT, YOU CRAZY B*TCH! TELL ME!
CALM DOWN, OKAY, SUGAR T*TS? GEEZ. IT'S 2321. SEPTEMBER 17, TO BE EXACT.
IT'S THE 23RD CENTURY. HOW CAN IT BE...? THE... AMULET!
ARE YOU OFF YOUR MEDS OR SOMETHING? DO YOU NEED A HOSPITAL OR -?
HAVE YOU EVER SEEN THIS BEFORE?
OH! PRETTY. BET IT'S WORTH A FEW CREDITS. CAN I -?

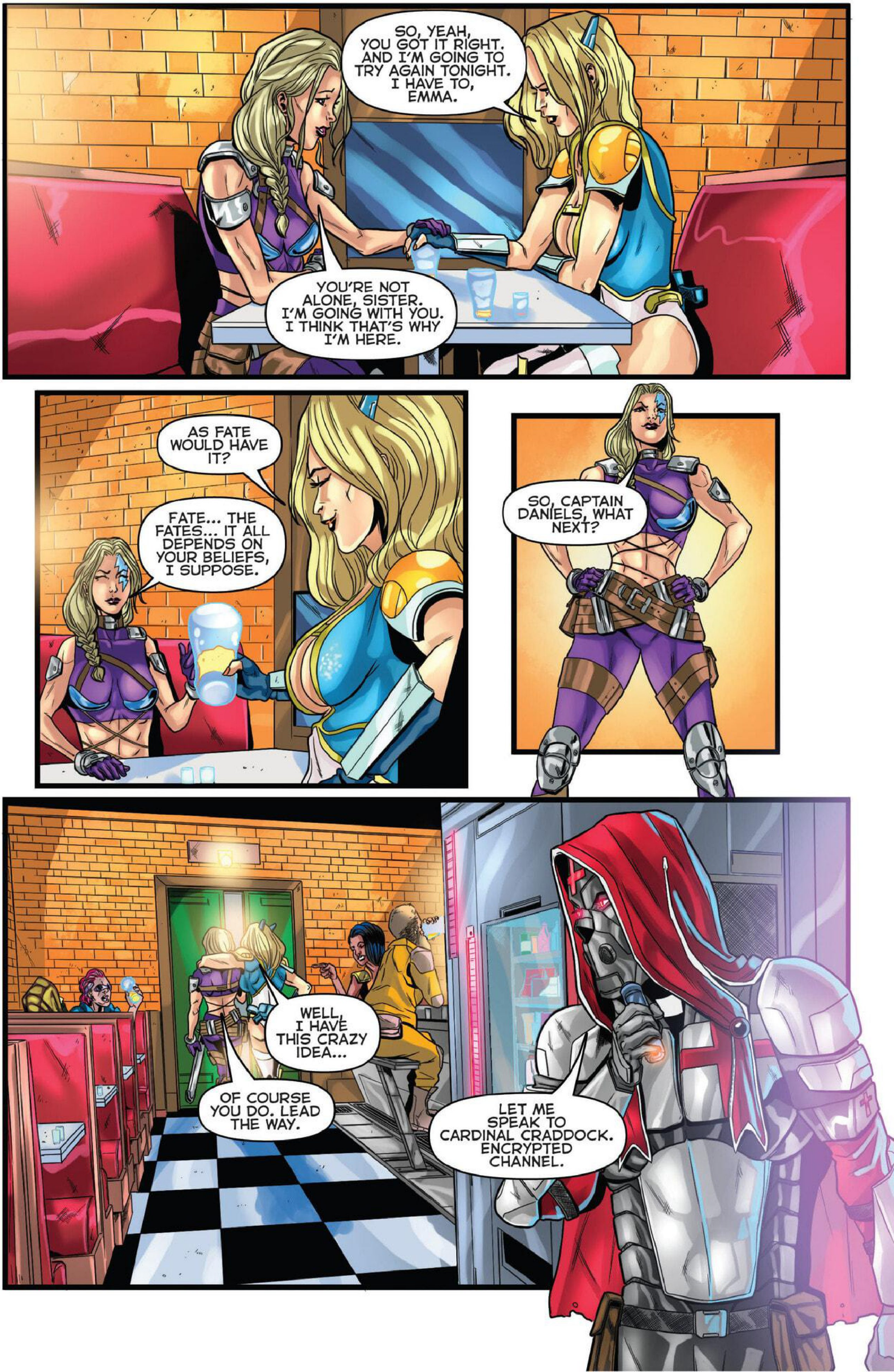

DON'T TOUCH IT! I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT WILL DO TO YOU.
I THINK IT'S WHAT BROUGHT ME HERE TO YOUR TIME.
WHOA. WAIT. BEFORE YOU START MONOLOGUING, I THINK I'M GOING TO NEED TO PARK THIS THING...
AND A DRINK.
VACA
W
XXX
SO... YOU'RE LIKE AN ANCIENT GREEK GODDESS OR SOMETHING-OR-OTHER WHO MOONLIGHTS AS A SUPERHERO IN THE 21ST CENTURY WHO WAS SHUNTED THROUGH TIME BY A MAGIC TRINKET GIVEN TO YOU BY A GUY WHO PLAYED A CAMPY BATMAN IN THE 60S? AM I EVEN IN THE BALLPARK?
BAR
LAST STAND
NOT... EXACTLY. I'M THE 10TH MUSE, BUT YOU CAN CALL ME EMMA IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE.
AND YOU'RE AN EX-PORN-STAR TURNED COMEDIAN TURNED GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA WHO MANAGED TO SURVIVE ALMOST 350 YEARS BECAUSE OF A RANDOM MIXTURE OF CHEMICALS AND GOOD GENES WHO NOW COMMANDS A HIGH-TECH STARSHIP FOR HIRE.
HOW'D I DO?

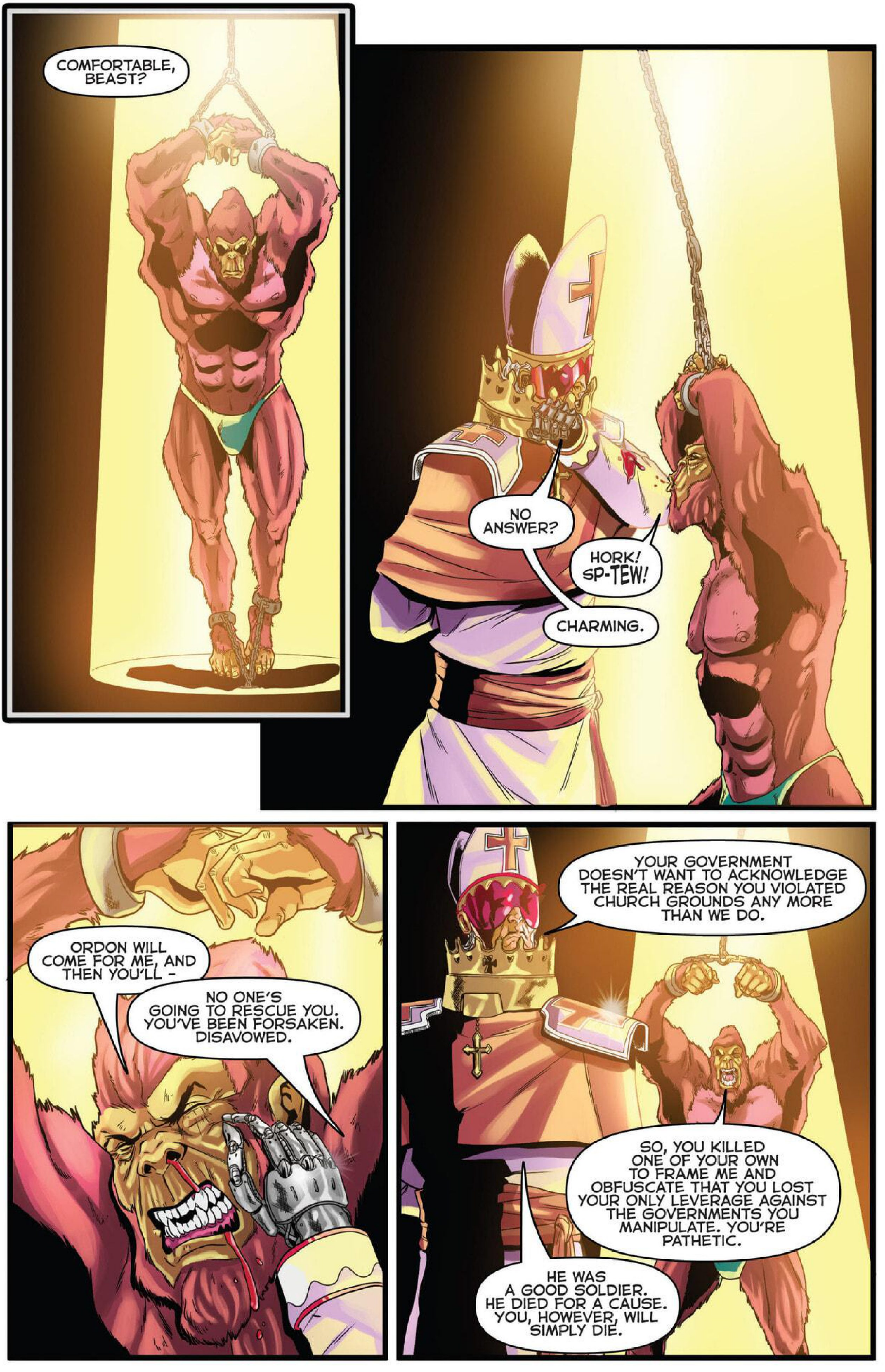

WELL, I PREFER THE TERM "ADULT ENTERTAINER," BUT HEY. I ALWAYS FIGURED YOU SPANDEX TYPES AS BEING WAY TOO JUDGMENTAL.
AND CAPTAIN DANIELS IS FINE.
OKAY, "CAPTAIN DANIELS," WHY WERE YOU ATTACKING A PRISON?
IT'S AMAZING.
WHAT IS?
HOW YOU CAN SAY MY NAME AND SOUND SO SELF-RIGHTEOUS WHILE DOING IT, "EMMA." REMARKABLE.
IT WASN'T A PRISON - AT LEAST, NOT HOW YOU MEAN. AND I WAS BUSTING OUT A FRIEND.
THANKS, SWEETIE. PUT IT ON MY TAB.
NOW THAT'S REMARKABLE. YOU HAVE A FRIEND.
CUTE. HE'S MY CLOSEST FRIEND, BODYGUARD, AND THE FIRST-MATE OF THE *HELIX*. HIS NAME IS DAS.

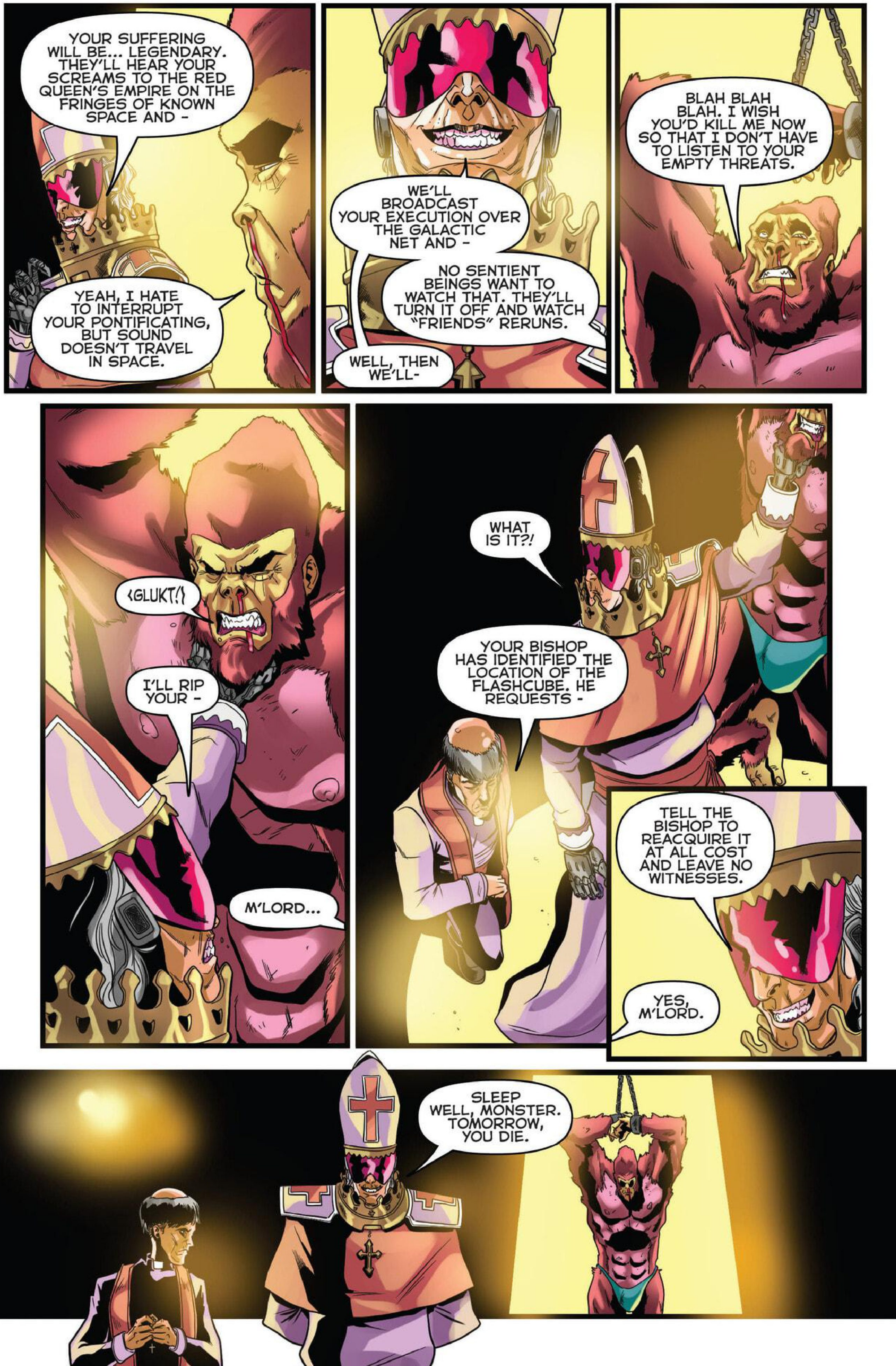

WE WERE SENT ON A MISSION BY ORDON TO RETRIEVE -
"ORDON"?
NOTE: THIS SEQUENCE TAKES PLACE BEFORE STORMY DANIELS: SPACE FORCE #1!
REMIND ME... WHO WAS PRESIDENT WHEN YOU LEFT YOUR TIME?
JOE BIDEN.
OH, YOU'RE IN FOR A SURPRISE, AREN'T YA? I'LL JUST LET TIME UNFOLD FOR YOU ON THAT ONE.
ANYWAY, THESE ZEALOTS, THE ARM OF THE LORD, ARE POLITICALLY CONNECTED AND RESPONSIBLE - BEHIND THE SCENES, OF COURSE - FOR THE RISE AND FALL OF POLITICIANS AND PERFORMERS. THEY MAKE OR BREAK CAREERS.
THEY OPERATE EMBASSIES ON A DOZEN KNOWN WORLDS AND ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO NO ONE EXCEPT THEIR VERSION OF GOD.
THEY HAVE - WELL, HAD - A FLASH-CUBE IMPRINTED WITH THE NAMES AND DATACRED OF ALL THE POLITICIANS IN THE GALACTIC HOUSE AND SENATE WHO FOLLOW THEIR BARBARIC FORMS OF WORSHIP IN SECRET.
DOWNLOADING
VIDS, SIMS, ENCRYPTED SOCIAL MEDIA STATS, TITHES - ALL OF IT. THE CHURCH DENIED IT, OF COURSE. WHO WANTS THEIR DIRTY LAUNDRY HANGING IN PUBLIC?
ORDON DIDN'T LIKE THE CHURCH BLACKMAILING HIS CABINET, EITHER.

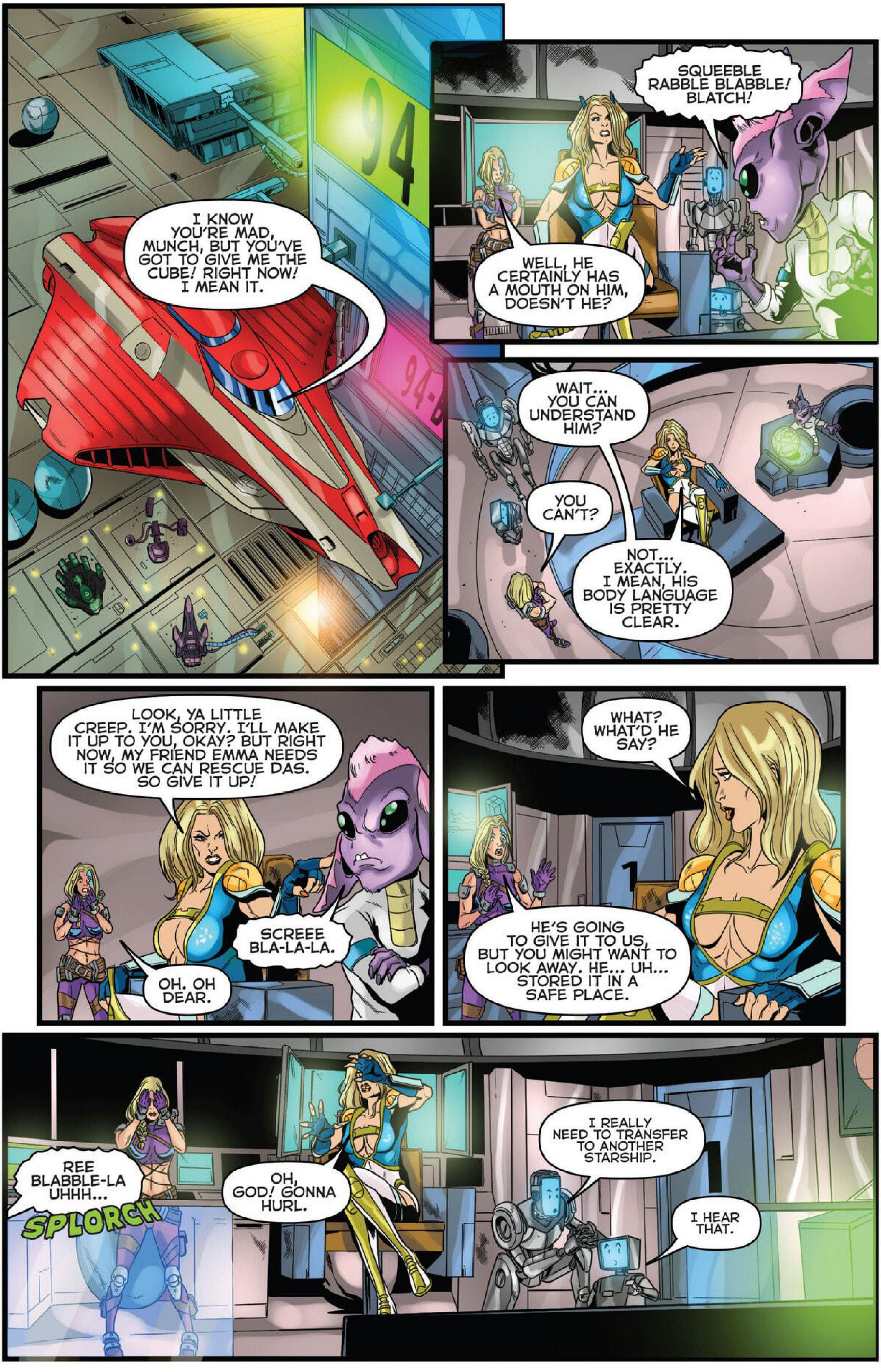

SO, WE LIBERATED IT.
WE WERE HOME FREE - WE THOUGHT. A SIMPLE SMASH AND GRAB. BUT SOMETHING WENT WRONG.
SOMEONE KILLED ONE OF THE CHURCH'S SAINT SOLDIERS. HE... DIDN'T DIE WELL, EITHER.
I KNOW HE LOOKS SCARY, BUT REALLY... DAS IS A SWEETHEART. I KNOW HIM.
GRRAAAGH! RUN!
HE STALLED THEM LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO ESCAPE.
DANGEROUS

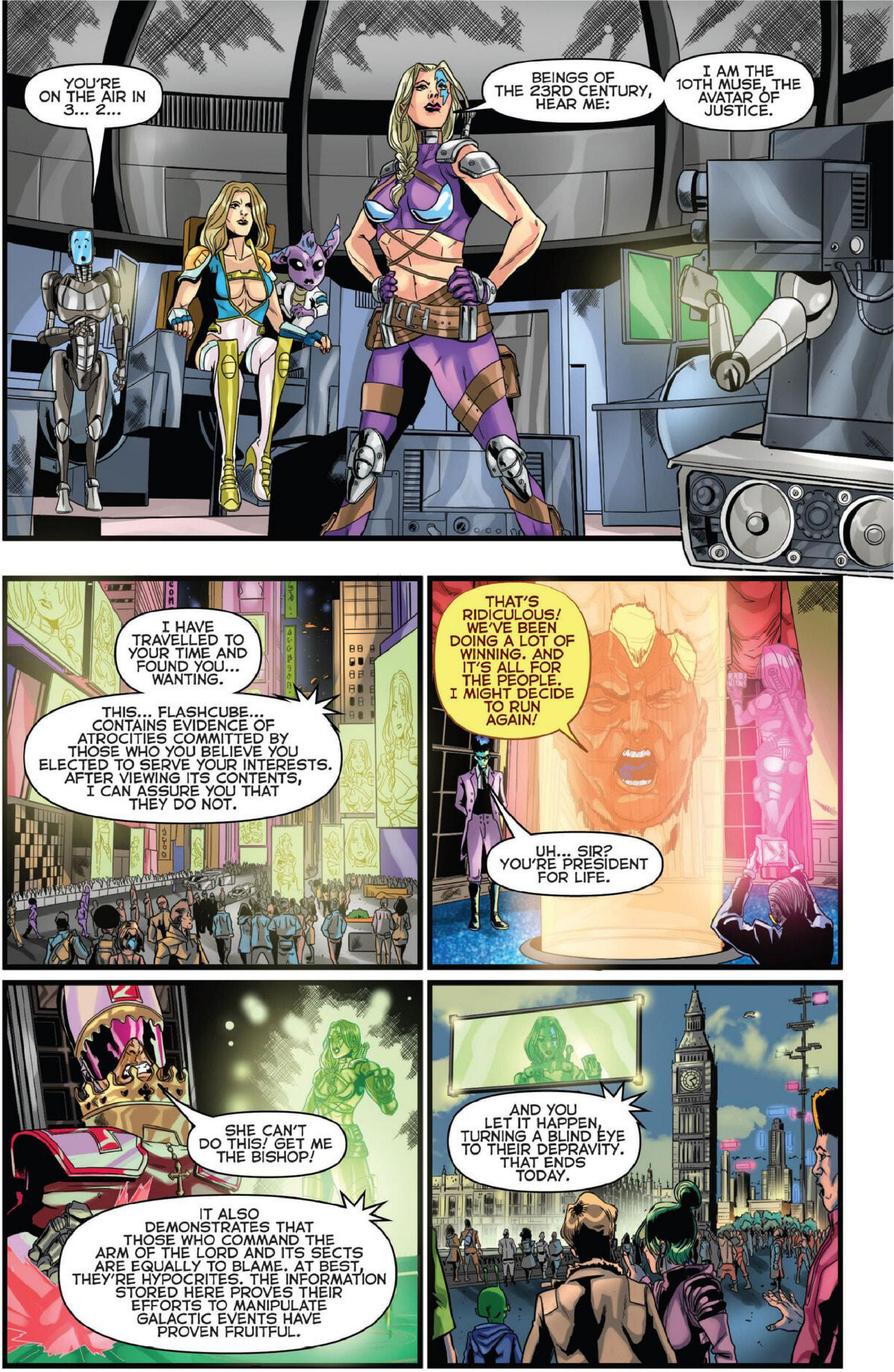

EVEN THOUGH WE DELIVERED THE FLASHCUBE, ORDON COULDN'T TAKE THE HEAT FOR HAVING A SPACE FORCE MEMBER MURDER ON THE CHURCH'S SOVEREIGN SOIL.
NO, WE CAN'T. IT'S THEIR RULES, DANIELS. STAND DOWN.
I EXPRESSED MY DISPLEASURE WITH THE SYSTEM.
THEY'RE PLANNING TO EXECUTE DAS FOR MURDER TWO DAYS FROM NOW. THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE IT PUBLIC TO SHOW THAT YOU DON'T MESS WITH THE CHURCH. IT ALSO OBSCURES THE STORY ABOUT THE THEFT.
I COULDN'T LET THEM KILL HIM AND, WELL... YOU KNOW THE REST.
YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT YOU HAVE TWO DAYS TO EITHER SOLVE THE MURDER OR RESCUE DAS FROM AN INTERGALACTIC CABAL OF MURDEROUS ZEALOTS, AND YOU WERE PLANNING TO DO THIS BY YOURSELF?
I DIDN'T WANT ANY MORE OF MY CREW TO GET CAUGHT IF I FAILED. THEY WEREN'T HAPPY ABOUT IT.
ZAP
ZAP
ZAP
I DIDN'T GIVE THEM A CHOICE.
I LOCKED THEM IN THE BRIG. THEY'RE GONNA BE MAD AT ME, BUT IT WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

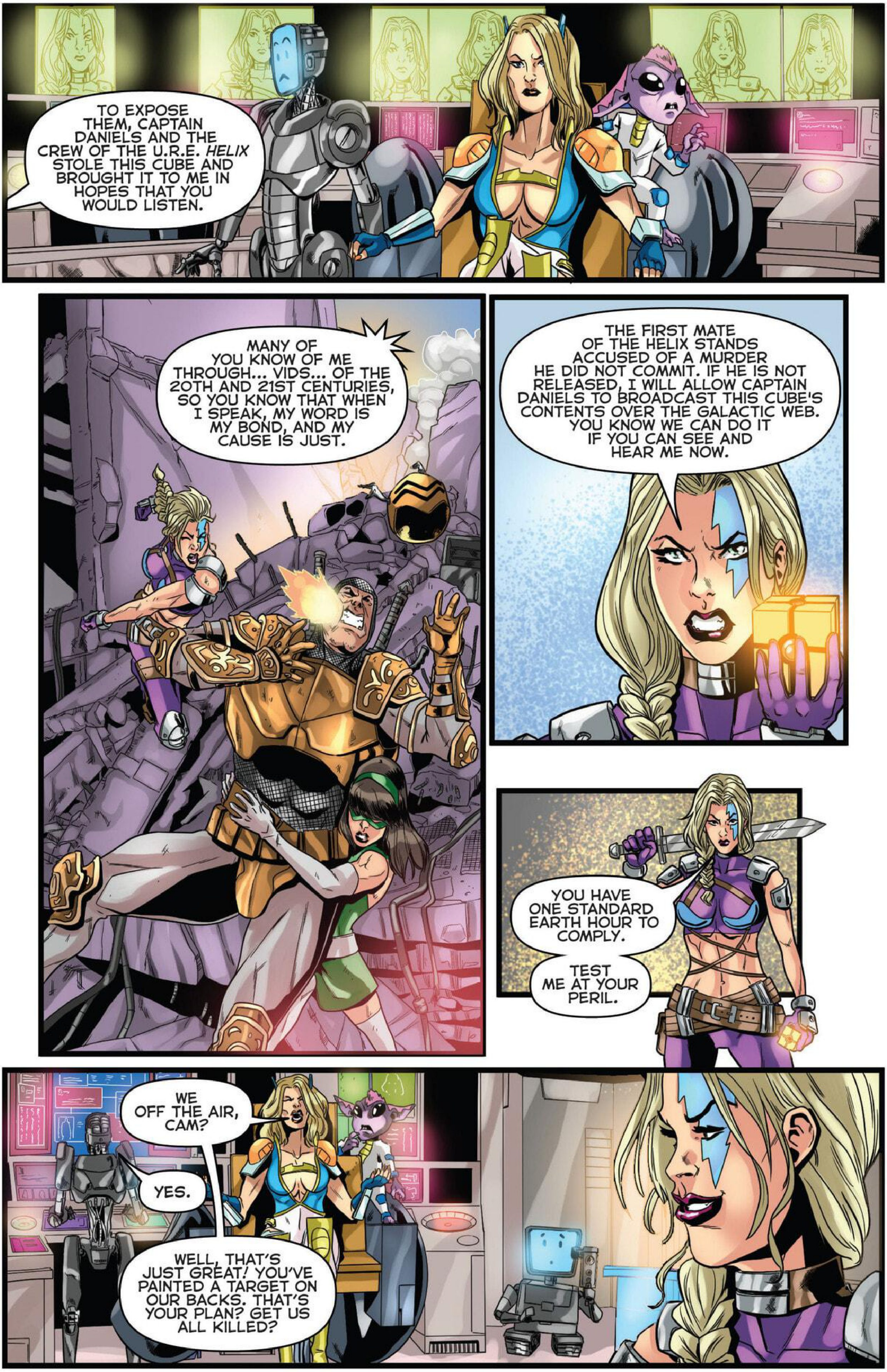

SO, YEAH, YOU GOT IT RIGHT. AND I'M GOING TO TRY AGAIN TONIGHT. I HAVE TO, EMMA.
YOU'RE NOT ALONE, SISTER. I'M GOING WITH YOU. I THINK THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.
AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT?
FATE... THE FATES... IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOUR BELIEFS, I SUPPOSE.
SO, CAPTAIN DANIELS, WHAT NEXT?
WELL, I HAVE THIS CRAZY IDEA...
OF COURSE YOU DO. LEAD THE WAY.
LET ME SPEAK TO CARDINAL CRADDOCK. ENCRYPTED CHANNEL.

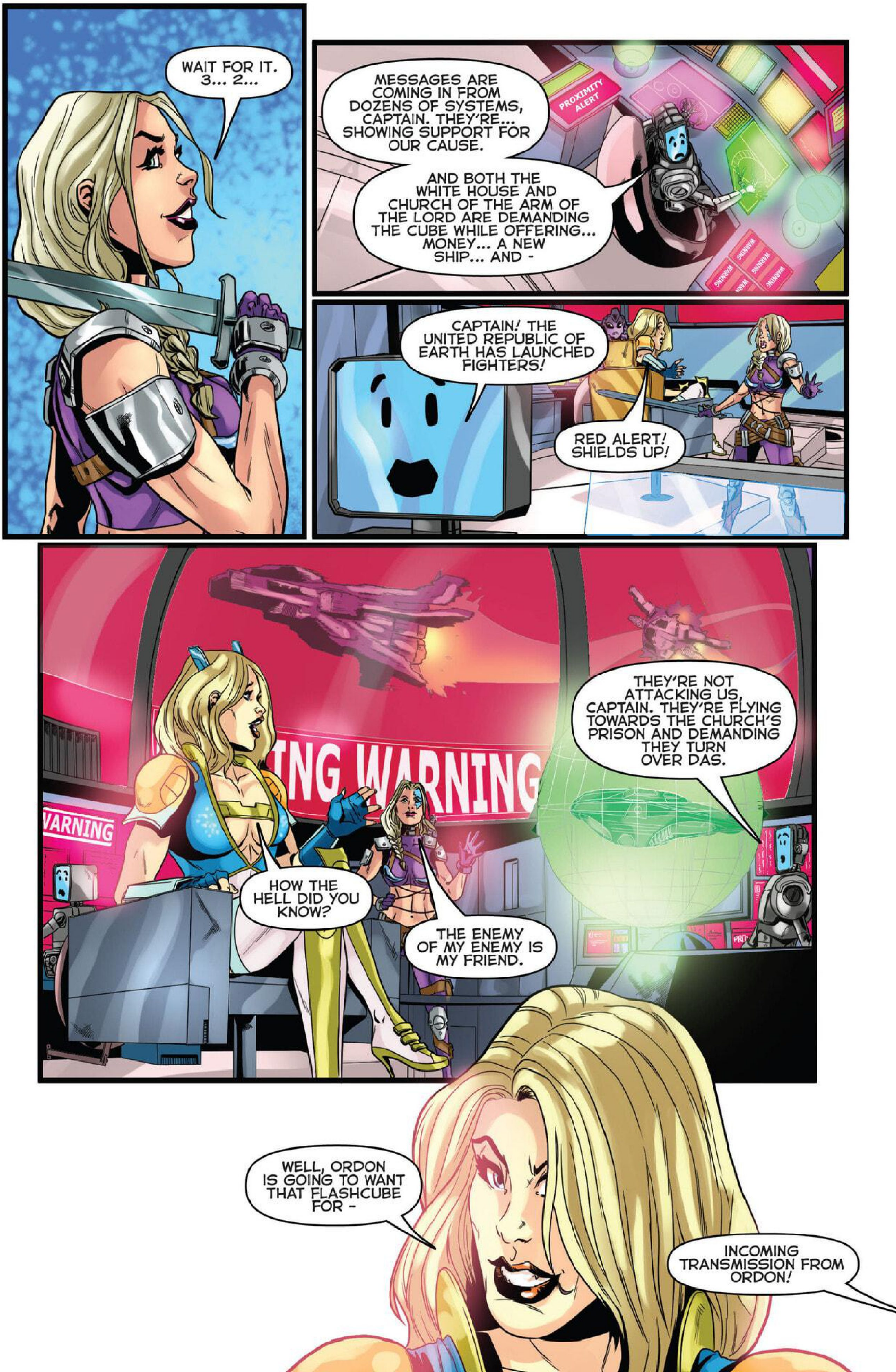

COMFORTABLE, BEAST?
NO ANSWER?
HORK! SP-TEW!
CHARMING.
ORDON WILL COME FOR ME, AND THEN YOU'LL -
NO ONE'S GOING TO RESCUE YOU. YOU'VE BEEN FORSAKEN. DISAVOWED.
YOUR GOVERNMENT DOESN'T WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE REAL REASON YOU VIOLATED CHURCH GROUNDS ANY MORE THAN WE DO.
SO, YOU KILLED ONE OF YOUR OWN TO FRAME ME AND OBFUSCATE THAT YOU LOST YOUR ONLY LEVERAGE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENTS YOU MANIPULATE. YOU'RE PATHETIC.
HE WAS A GOOD SOLDIER. HE DIED FOR A CAUSE. YOU, HOWEVER, WILL SIMPLY DIE.

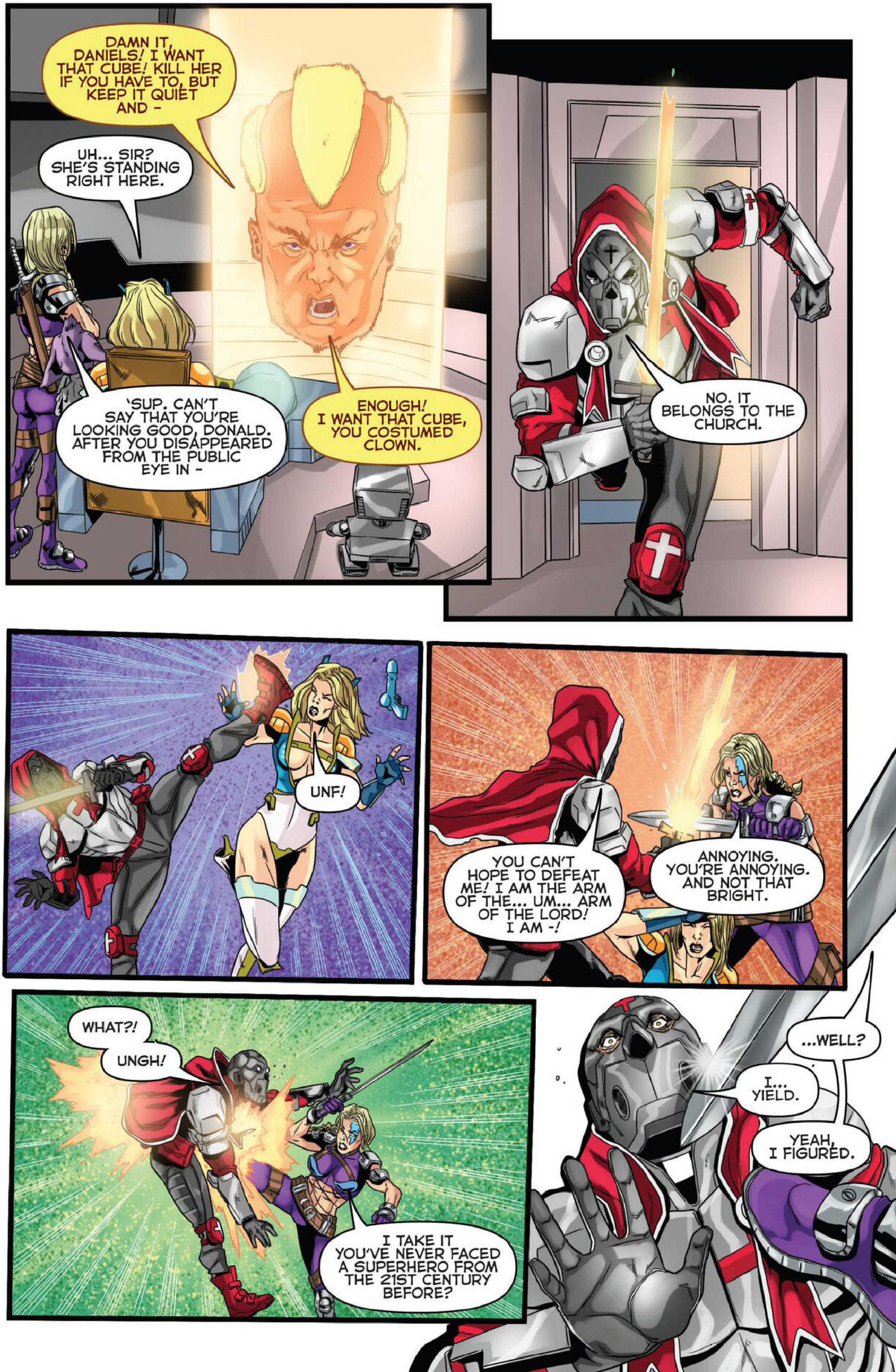

YOUR SUFFERING WILL BE... LEGENDARY. THEY'LL HEAR YOUR SCREAMS TO THE RED QUEEN'S EMPIRE ON THE FRINGES OF KNOWN SPACE AND -
YEAH, I HATE TO INTERRUPT YOUR PONTIFICATING, BUT SOUND DOESN'T TRAVEL IN SPACE.
WE'LL BROADCAST YOUR EXECUTION OVER THE GALACTIC NET AND -
NO SENTIENT BEINGS WANT TO WATCH THAT. THEY'LL TURN IT OFF AND WATCH "FRIENDS" RERUNS.
WELL, THEN WE'LL-
BLAH BLAH BLAH. I WISH YOU'D KILL ME NOW SO THAT I DON'T HAVE TO LISTEN TO YOUR EMPTY THREATS.
‹GLUKT!›
I'LL RIP YOUR -
M'LORD...
WHAT IS IT?!
YOUR BISHOP HAS IDENTIFIED THE LOCATION OF THE FLASHCUBE. HE REQUESTS -
TELL THE BISHOP TO REACQUIRE IT AT ALL COST AND LEAVE NO WITNESSES.
YES, M'LORD.
SLEEP WELL, MONSTER. TOMORROW, YOU DIE.

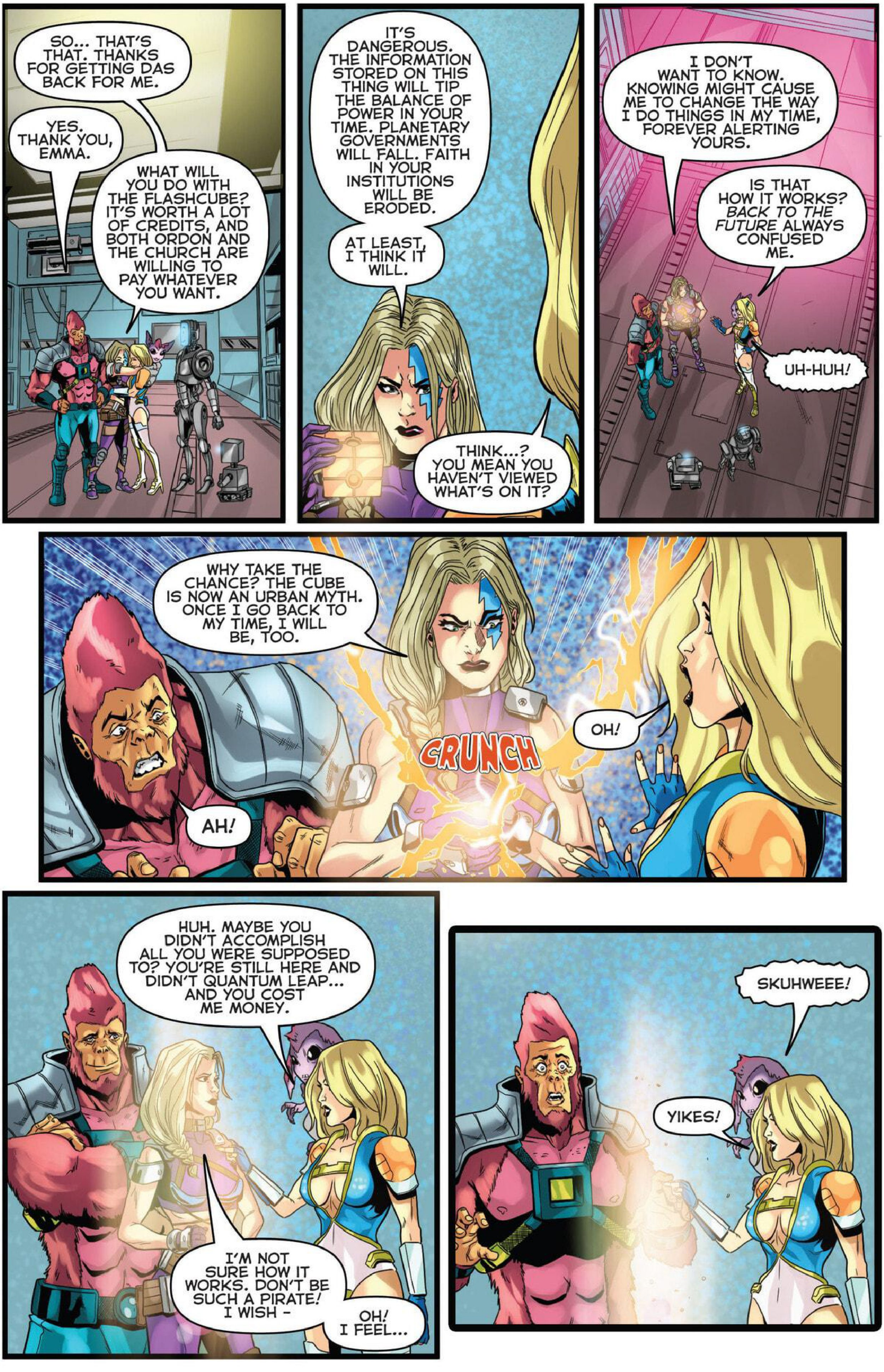

94
94-B
I KNOW YOU'RE MAD, MUNCH, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE ME THE CUBE! RIGHT NOW! I MEAN IT.
SQUEEBLE RABBLE BLABBLE! BLATCH!
WELL, HE CERTAINLY HAS A MOUTH ON HIM, DOESN'T HE?
WAIT... YOU CAN UNDERSTAND HIM?
YOU CAN'T?
NOT... EXACTLY. I MEAN, HIS BODY LANGUAGE IS PRETTY CLEAR.
LOOK, YA LITTLE CREEP. I'M SORRY. I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU, OKAY? BUT RIGHT NOW, MY FRIEND EMMA NEEDS IT SO WE CAN RESCUE DAS. SO GIVE IT UP!
SCREEE BLA-LA-LA.
OH. OH DEAR.
WHAT? WHAT'D HE SAY?
HE'S GOING TO GIVE IT TO US, BUT YOU MIGHT WANT TO LOOK AWAY. HE... UH... STORED IT IN A SAFE PLACE.
REE BLABBLE-LA UHHH...
SPLORCH
OH, GOD! GONNA HURL.
I REALLY NEED TO TRANSFER TO ANOTHER STARSHIP.
I HEAR THAT.


YOU'RE ON THE AIR IN 3... 2...
BEINGS OF THE 23RD CENTURY, HEAR ME:
I AM THE 10TH MUSE, THE AVATAR OF JUSTICE.
I HAVE TRAVELLED TO YOUR TIME AND FOUND YOU... WANTING.
THIS... FLASHCUBE... CONTAINS EVIDENCE OF ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THOSE WHO YOU BELIEVE YOU ELECTED TO SERVE YOUR INTERESTS. AFTER VIEWING ITS CONTENTS, I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THEY DO NOT.
THAT'S RIDICULOUS! WE'VE BEEN DOING A LOT OF WINNING. AND IT'S ALL FOR THE PEOPLE. I MIGHT DECIDE TO RUN AGAIN!
UH... SIR? YOU'RE PRESIDENT FOR LIFE.
SHE CAN'T DO THIS! GET ME THE BISHOP!
IT ALSO DEMONSTRATES THAT THOSE WHO COMMAND THE ARM OF THE LORD AND ITS SECTS ARE EQUALLY TO BLAME. AT BEST, THEY'RE HYPOCRITES. THE INFORMATION STORED HERE PROVES THEIR EFFORTS TO MANIPULATE GALACTIC EVENTS HAVE PROVEN FRUITFUL.
AND YOU LET IT HAPPEN, TURNING A BLIND EYE TO THEIR DEPRAVITY. THAT ENDS TODAY.

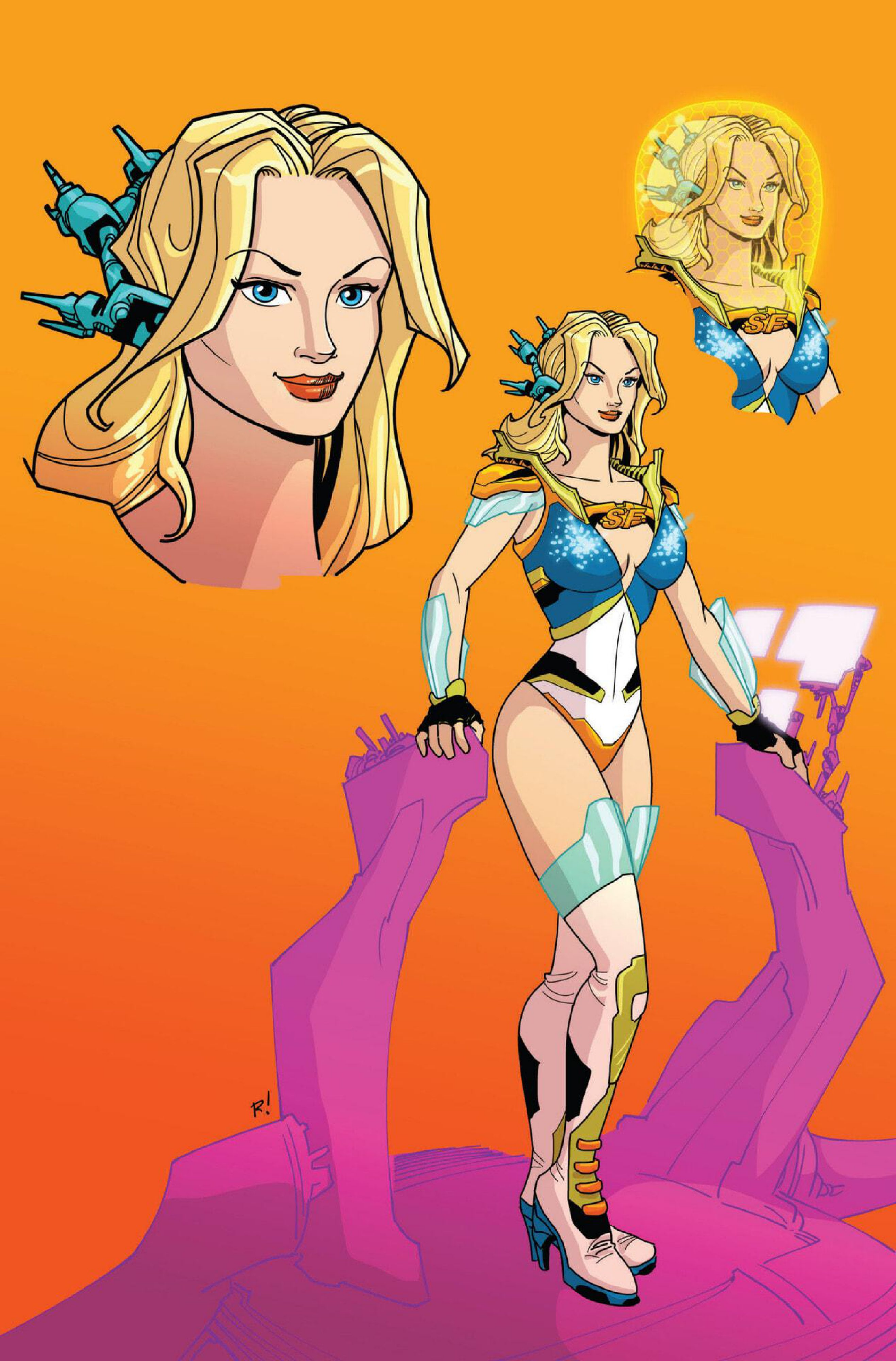

TO EXPOSE THEM, CAPTAIN DANIELS AND THE CREW OF THE U.R.E. *HELIX* STOLE THIS CUBE AND BROUGHT IT TO ME IN HOPES THAT YOU WOULD LISTEN.
MANY OF YOU KNOW OF ME THROUGH... VIDS... OF THE 20TH AND 21ST CENTURIES, SO YOU KNOW THAT WHEN I SPEAK, MY WORD IS MY BOND, AND MY CAUSE IS JUST.
THE FIRST MATE OF THE HELIX STANDS ACCUSED OF A MURDER HE DID NOT COMMIT. IF HE IS NOT RELEASED, I WILL ALLOW CAPTAIN DANIELS TO BROADCAST THIS CUBE'S CONTENTS OVER THE GALACTIC WEB. YOU KNOW WE CAN DO IT IF YOU CAN SEE AND HEAR ME NOW.
YOU HAVE ONE STANDARD EARTH HOUR TO COMPLY.
TEST ME AT YOUR PERIL.
WE OFF THE AIR, CAM?
YES.
WELL, THAT'S JUST GREAT! YOU'VE PAINTED A TARGET ON OUR BACKS. THAT'S YOUR PLAN? GET US ALL KILLED?


WAIT FOR IT. 3... 2...
MESSAGES ARE COMING IN FROM DOZENS OF SYSTEMS, CAPTAIN. THEY'RE... SHOWING SUPPORT FOR OUR CAUSE.
AND BOTH THE WHITE HOUSE AND CHURCH OF THE ARM OF THE LORD ARE DEMANDING THE CUBE WHILE OFFERING... MONEY... A NEW SHIP... AND -
PROXIMITY ALERT
WARNING
CAPTAIN! THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF EARTH HAS LAUNCHED FIGHTERS!
RED ALERT! SHIELDS UP!
ING WARNING
WARNING
THEY'RE NOT ATTACKING US, CAPTAIN. THEY'RE FLYING TOWARDS THE CHURCH'S PRISON AND DEMANDING THEY TURN OVER DAS.
HOW THE HELL DID YOU KNOW?
THE ENEMY OF MY ENEMY IS MY FRIEND.
WELL, ORDON IS GOING TO WANT THAT FLASHCUBE FOR -
INCOMING TRANSMISSION FROM ORDON!


DAMN IT, DANIELS! I WANT THAT CUBE! KILL HER IF YOU HAVE TO, BUT KEEP IT QUIET AND -
UH... SIR? SHE'S STANDING RIGHT HERE.
'SUP. CAN'T SAY THAT YOU'RE LOOKING GOOD, DONALD. AFTER YOU DISAPPEARED FROM THE PUBLIC EYE IN -
ENOUGH! I WANT THAT CUBE, YOU COSTUMED CLOWN.
NO. IT BELONGS TO THE CHURCH.
UNF!
YOU CAN'T HOPE TO DEFEAT ME! I AM THE ARM OF THE... UM... ARM OF THE LORD! I AM -!
ANNOYING. YOU'RE ANNOYING. AND NOT THAT BRIGHT.
WHAT?!
UNGH!
I TAKE IT YOU'VE NEVER FACED A SUPERHERO FROM THE 21ST CENTURY BEFORE?
...WELL?
I... YIELD.
YEAH, I FIGURED.


SO... THAT'S THAT. THANKS FOR GETTING DAS BACK FOR ME.
YES. THANK YOU, EMMA.
WHAT WILL YOU DO WITH THE FLASHCUBE? IT'S WORTH A LOT OF CREDITS, AND BOTH ORDON AND THE CHURCH ARE WILLING TO PAY WHATEVER YOU WANT.
IT'S DANGEROUS. THE INFORMATION STORED ON THIS THING WILL TIP THE BALANCE OF POWER IN YOUR TIME. PLANETARY GOVERNMENTS WILL FALL. FAITH IN YOUR INSTITUTIONS WILL BE ERODED.
AT LEAST, I THINK IT WILL.
THINK...? YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T VIEWED WHAT'S ON IT?
I DON'T WANT TO KNOW. KNOWING MIGHT CAUSE ME TO CHANGE THE WAY I DO THINGS IN MY TIME, FOREVER ALERTING YOURS.
IS THAT HOW IT WORKS? *BACK TO THE FUTURE* ALWAYS CONFUSED ME.
UH-HUH!
WHY TAKE THE CHANCE? THE CUBE IS NOW AN URBAN MYTH. ONCE I GO BACK TO MY TIME, I WILL BE, TOO.
OH!
CRUNCH
AH!
HUH. MAYBE YOU DIDN'T ACCOMPLISH ALL YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO? YOU'RE STILL HERE AND DIDN'T QUANTUM LEAP... AND YOU COST ME MONEY.
I'M NOT SURE HOW IT WORKS. DON'T BE SUCH A PIRATE! I WISH -
OH! I FEEL...
SKUHWEEE!
YIKES!

BONUS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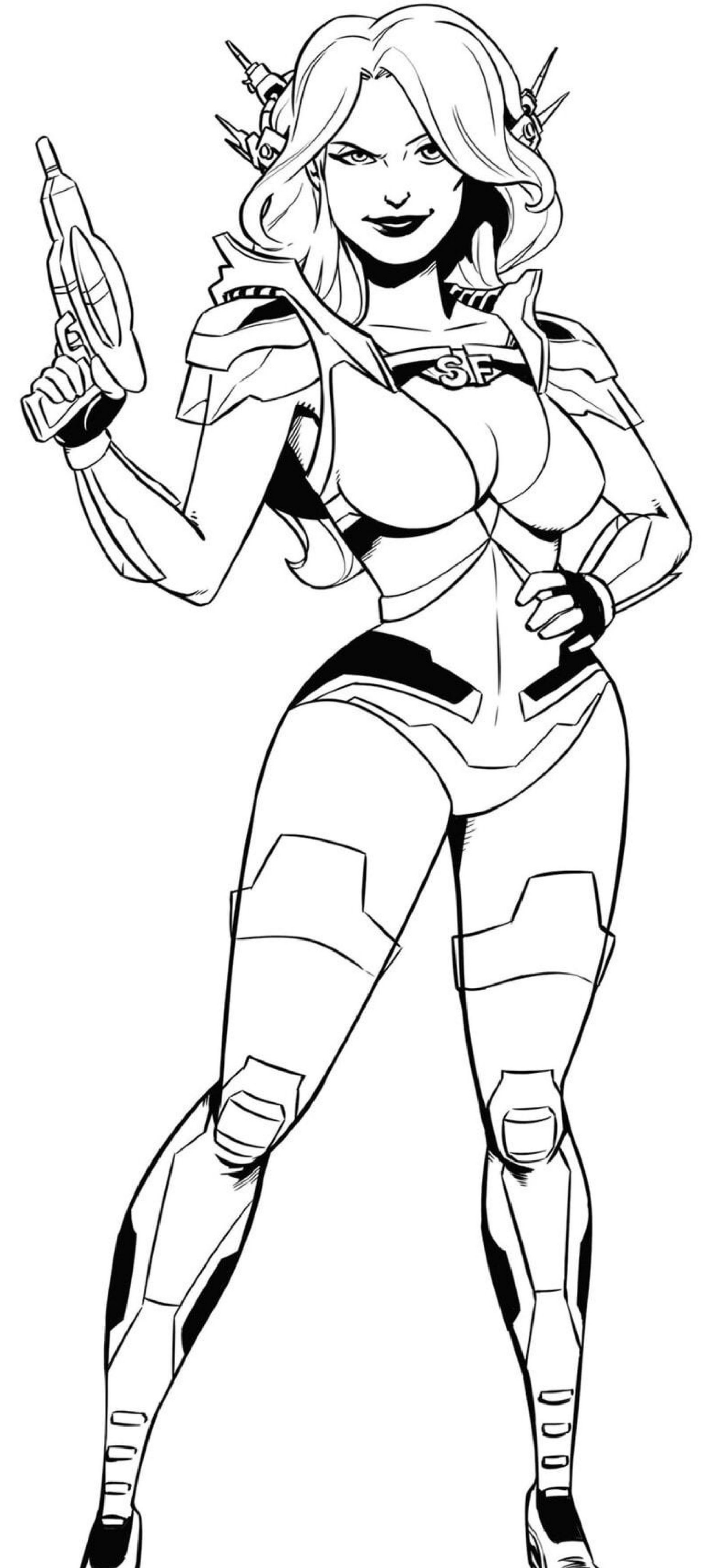
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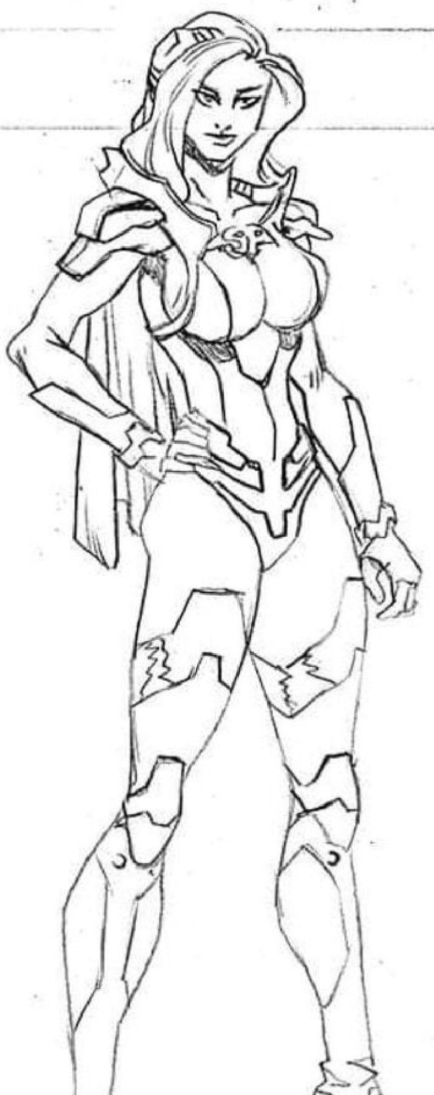
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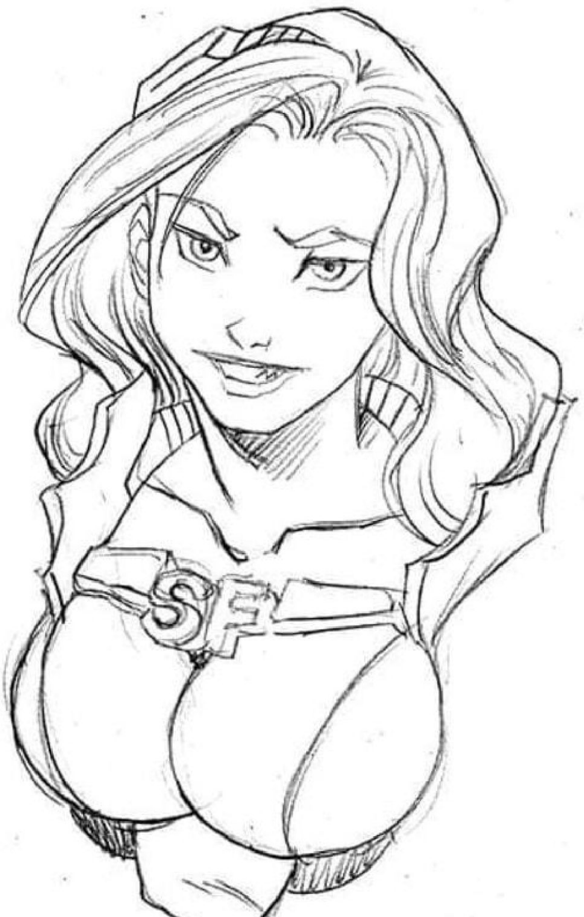
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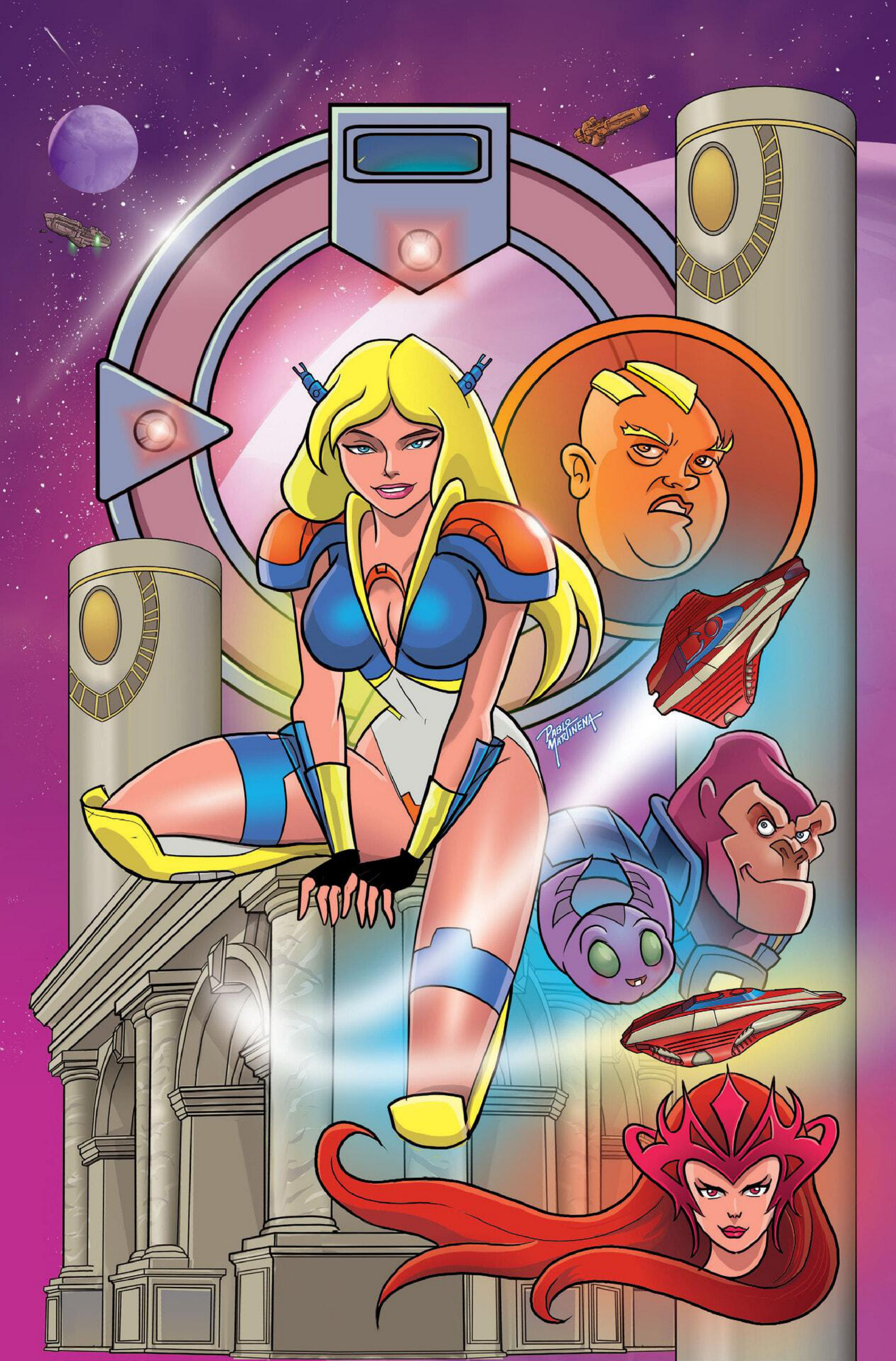
PABLO MARTINENA


PABLO MARTINENA

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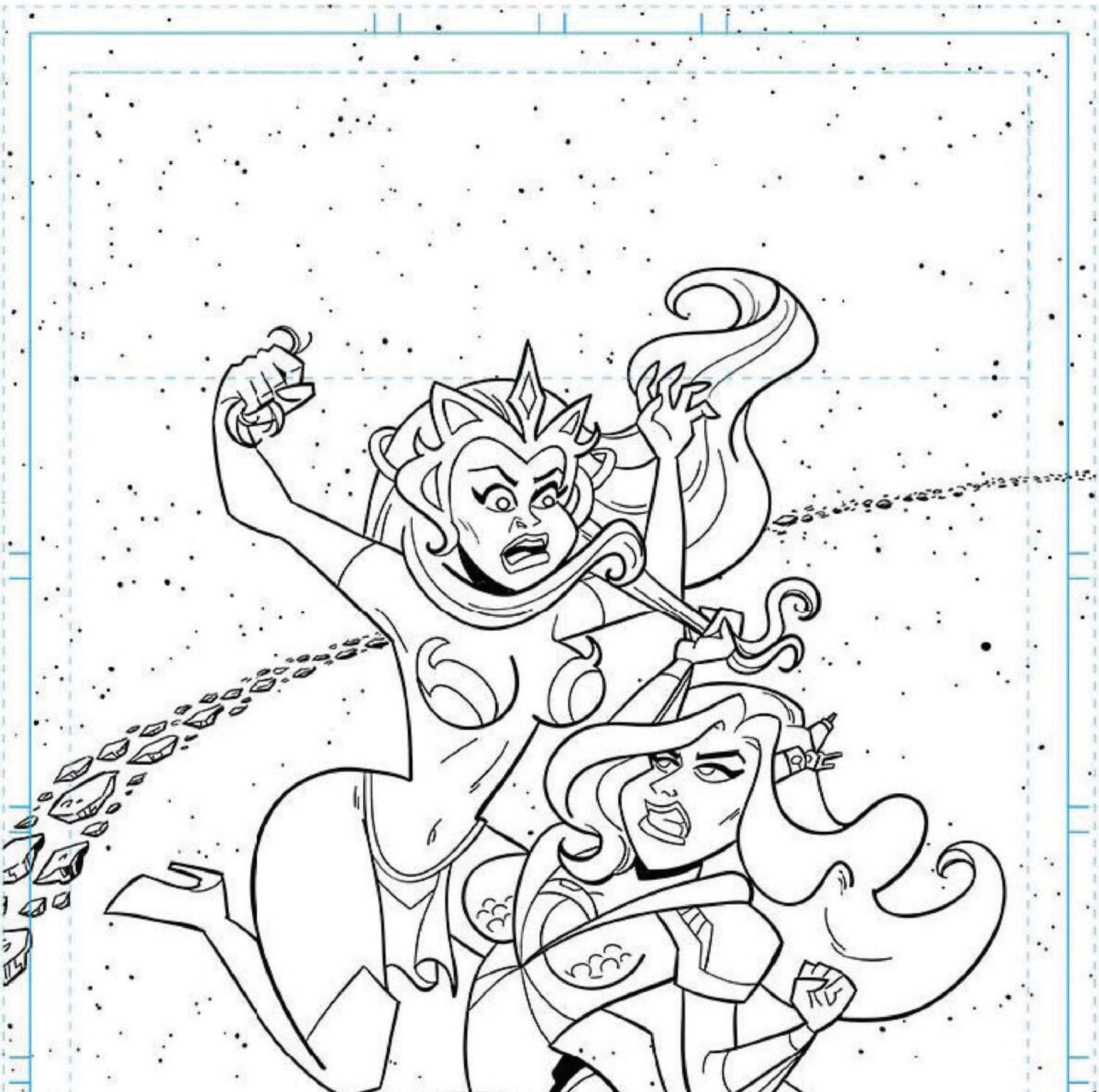

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PABLO MARTINENA

PABLO MARTINENA

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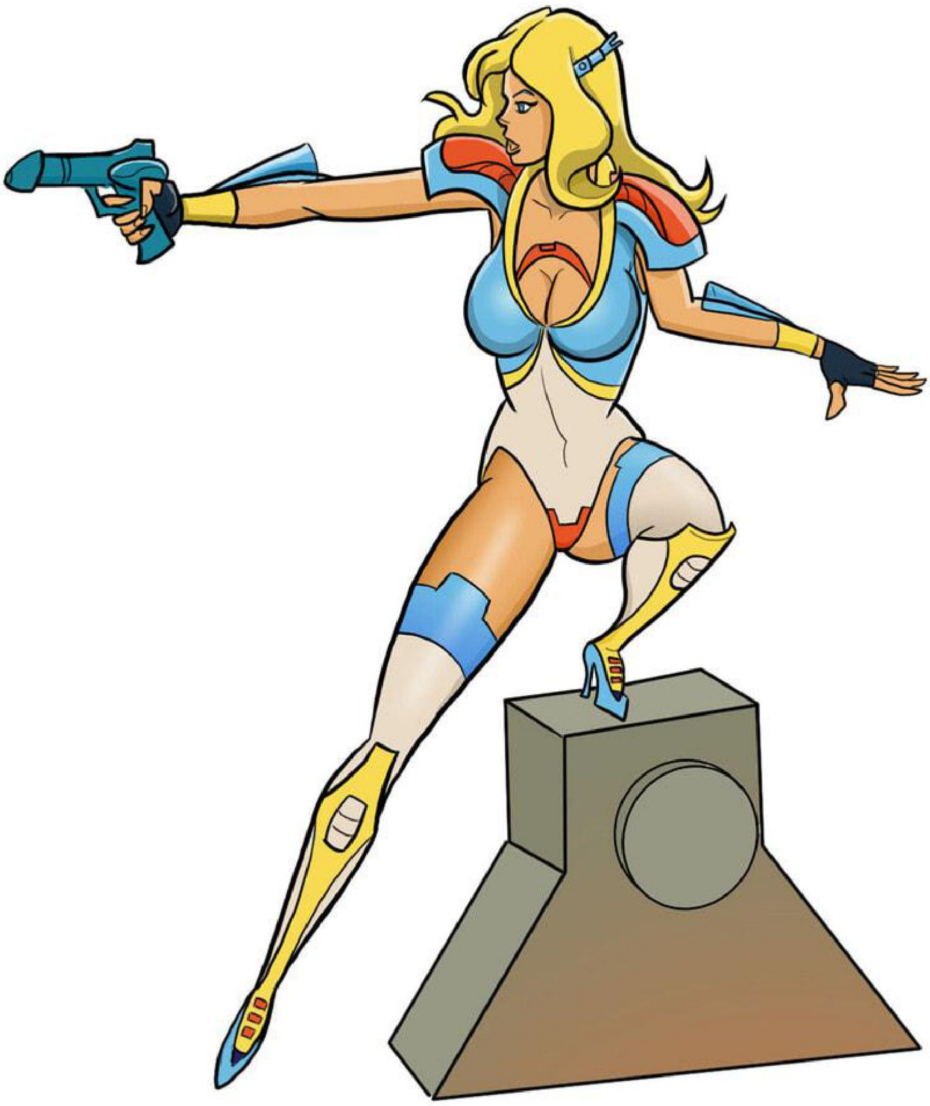

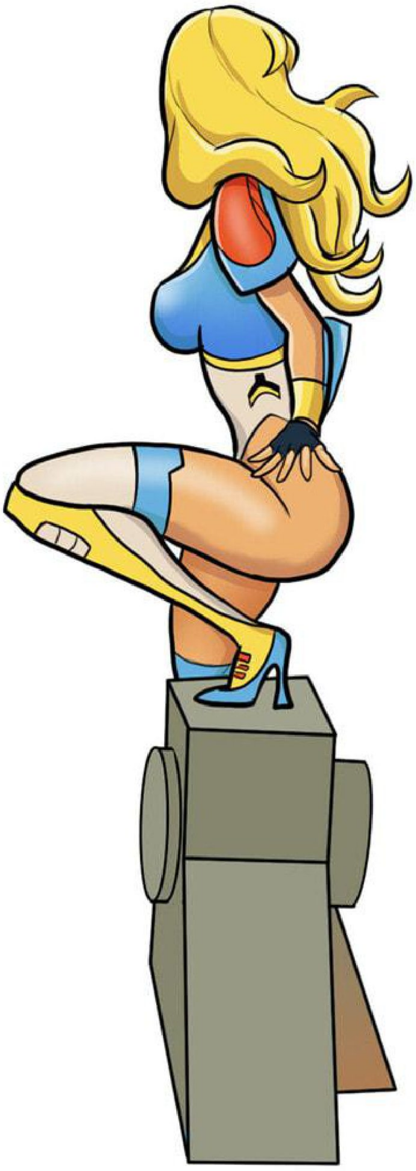

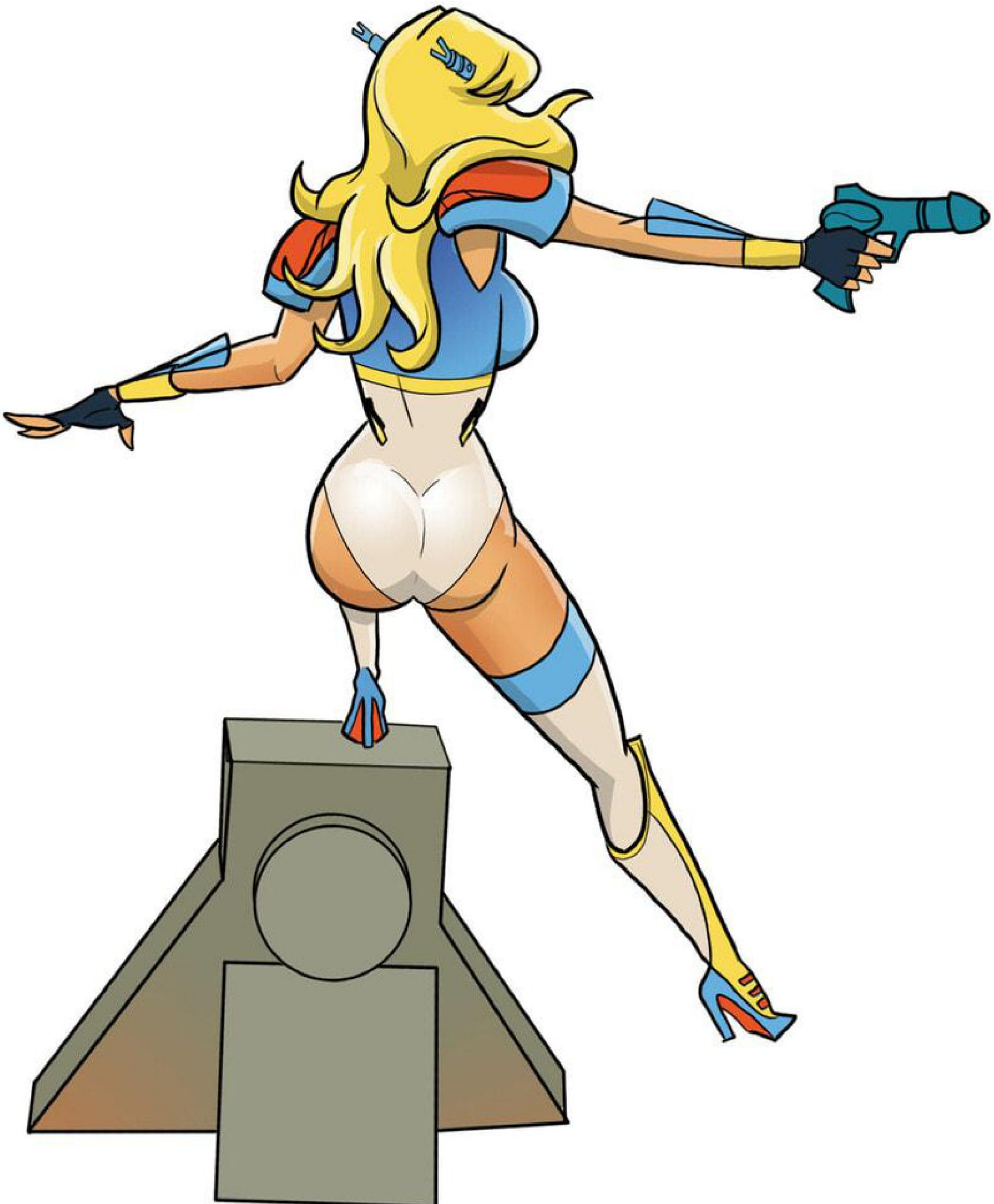

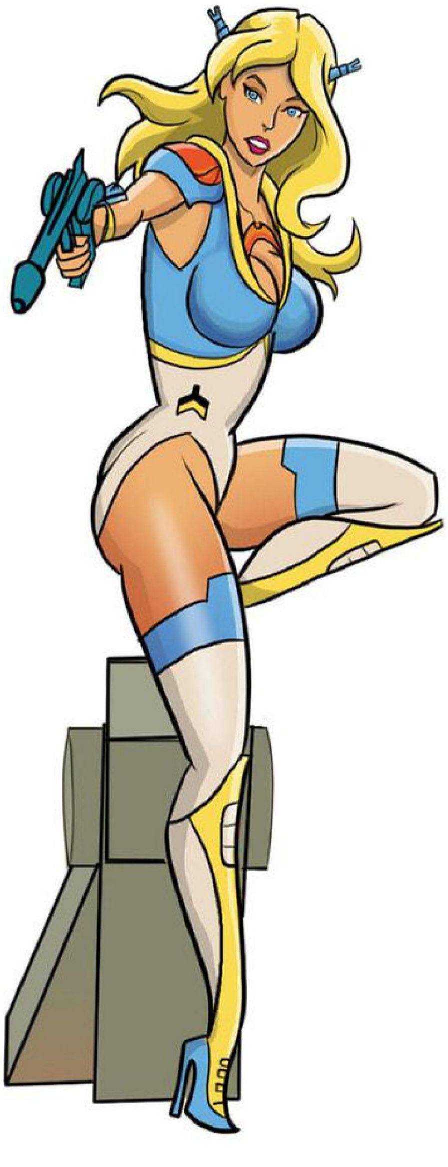

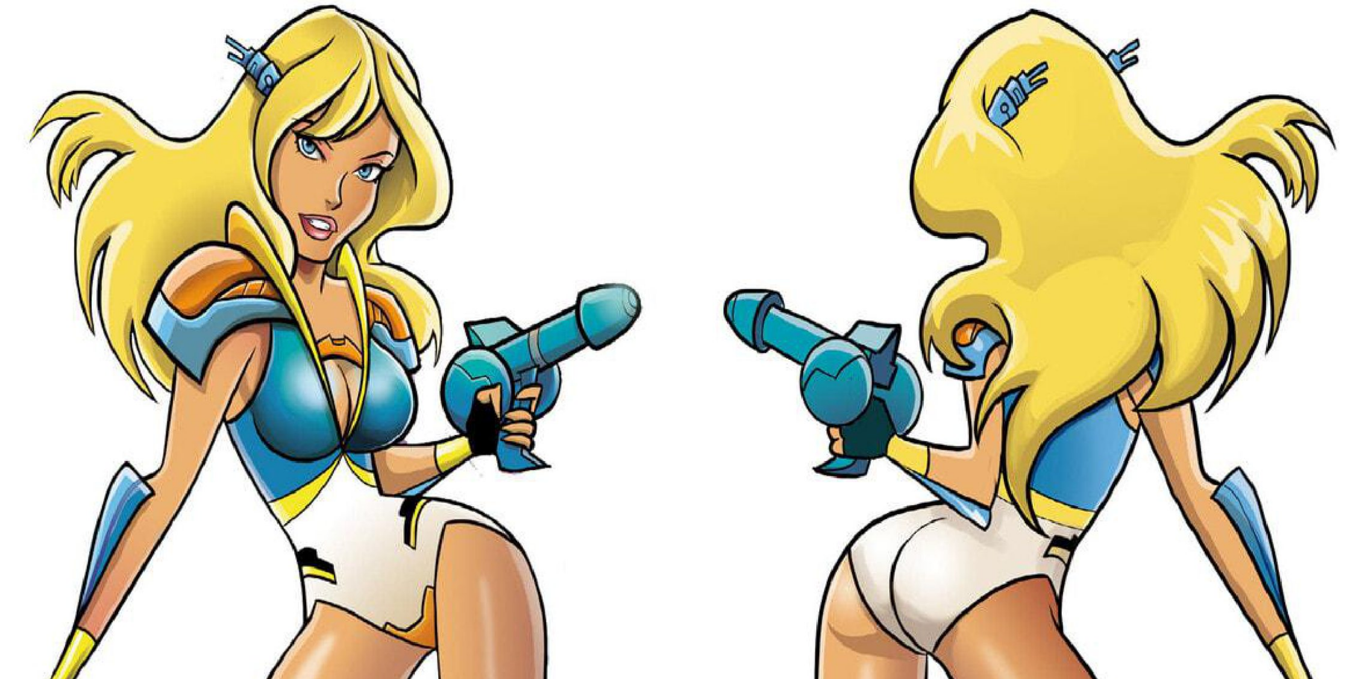

STORMY DANIELS SPACE FORCE

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